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FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2002

HEARINGS

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED
PROGRAMS

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PART 4

TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2002

Wednesday, March, 28, 2001.

TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND
ORGANIZATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AND UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER COLLABORATIVE
CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROJECT

WITNESS

HON. PETER T. KING, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF
FLORIDA

Mr. Kolbe's Opening Statement

Mr. Kolbe [presiding]. The Subcommittee on Foreign Operations will come to order.

This hearing, the second formal hearing of the year, is devoted to outside business groups and members. And we do have a member here to start us off.

Since Mr. King is here, we will begin with you, Mr. King.

Thank you very much for coming today. Of course, your statement, as I will say to all the members and the outside groups, the full statement will be placed in the record.

Thanks very much, Peter.

Mr. King. Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity. I will make this brief.

I am here to testify on behalf--I do not know the exact terminology here--\$2.2 million in the Foreign Operations bill for USAID for the project involving the University of Notre Dame and the University of Ulster.

Notre Dame is not in my state. I am a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, so I have a certain feeling toward them. But what is more important, I have been involved in the Irish peace process for over 20 years. I was with President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair and a bipartisan delegation at the groundbreaking ceremony at the Springvale campus in 1998.

While much good has happened in Northern Ireland over the last several years, primarily because of the assistance of the United States, the involvement of the United States, much more remains to be done. There is still inherent conflict on the ground between the two communities who have warred for over 30 years, if not for centuries.

This campus is located right on the dividing line between the two communities, the Protestant community and the Catholic community. Notre Dame, I believe, is particularly suited to play a role in bringing about conciliation, working with the University of Ulster, to try to find ways to bring the two communities together.

They have extensive Irish studies institutes at Notre Dame. They have been in conflict resolution. And I know the British government is strongly behind this move, as are many people in the Northern Ireland assembly.

I think it would be really a dramatic step forward, and it would show the continuing involvement by the United States in this peace process. And Notre Dame, of course, has a long historic connection to the Irish people. Now, by working with the University of Ulster, it can actually have a hands-on, real impact on the ground.

I strongly support this appropriations request. I think it will repay itself many times over, if we can find a way to

bring these two communities together, engage the students by studies of the inherent reasons for the conflict.

So again, I cannot support this more strongly.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.001

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.002

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.003

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. King. I appreciate your comments. Obviously, this is an area that I have a great deal of interest in. I sat with the chairman of the Peace Fund last week at the luncheon, and I am looking forward to getting over there myself and seeing some of the program that we are doing. So I appreciate your support.

Mr. King. You will see, if you go there, this campus is right in the middle of what had been a war zone.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. King.

Mr. Pallone, you are here, and we will go to you next here.

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Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, ASSISTANCE AND INVESTMENT

WITNESS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much for coming.

Mr. Pallone. I see your chief of staff of the committee is still with us. Nice to know.

Mr. Kolbe. The members come and go, but as you know well, the staff never changes. They just keep on going. [Laughter.]

Mr. Pallone. Let me say, I wanted to come early. I have a complete statement, which I will submit for the record.

Mr. Kolbe. We will put this in the record.

Mr. Pallone. But I am going to try to summarize.

The two areas that I discuss the most before the subcommittee are with regard to Armenia and India. And you and the committee has been very supportive of efforts in those two countries. And there really has been tremendous progress.

With regard to Armenia, we have, on April 3 next week, the Secretary of State and the new President have now been successful in having the two presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan--they are going to meet in Key West to try and work out an agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh. So we have had significant progress there.

And also, with regard to India, of course, we had the visit of President Clinton and the visit of Prime Minister Vajpayee last year. So again, there has been a lot of progress with regard to India.

If I could mention Armenia, as you know, we have the humanitarian assistance every year. Last year, this

subcommittee and the full House sent to the President a bill with \$90 million in assistance for Armenia. In light of the progress that has been made with the peace negotiations and the efforts by Armenia, I would not like to see any less than that appropriated this year.

I would ask for at least as much as we received last year and, obviously, to maintain Section 907, because although there has been progress with the peace talks, we still have this blockade in effect. And I think it would be wrong to change Section 907 as long as the blockade is in effect.

In the past, the subcommittee provided aid to Nagorno-Karabakh, a few years ago, for \$20 million. I have still been concerned about the fact that that has not all been used. There is about \$11.8 million that has been obligated. But we want to make sure that that does not get eliminated somehow, that it continues, and that we are able to use up the rest, and the subcommittee maybe put some language in suggesting that the State Department move quickly to try to obligate the rest of the funds.

The only other thing I wanted to mention, if we do see progress on April 3, and we actually see a negotiated settlement, Mr. Chairman, with regard to Nagorno-Karabakh, the subcommittee would need to start thinking about some sort of peace dividend.

I do not know how you do that. I do not know if it is in a supplemental or if it is in this year's bill, depending on progress, but there has been a sort of a commitment that there will be, you know, reconstruction, rebuilding efforts in place as part of that peace settlement. I do not have any specifics on it, but I just wanted you to be aware of it. I do not know that you would necessarily put that in this bill; it depends on the progress of the peace talks.

And you have also had in the past confidence-building measures for the Caucasus nations. Obviously, with these talks going the way they are, if they are successful, it is going to be important for us to include more language with regard to confidence-building measures as well.

And the last thing is, last year the final bill that went to the President had an earmark for this SESAME project. It is a synchrotron radiation light source. Mr. Chairman, I cannot go into the details. It is a physics project that is very important to Armenia, that would do a lot toward keeping people there--scientists, engineers--and allowing Armenia to grow in terms of its high tech and its future in engineering and science. And we would ask again that you consider a level of appropriation or earmark or some sort of language with regard to SESAME.

Let me move to India and again point out that this committee has been very supportive of India. Every time there was an effort on the floor to cut back on aid to India in the past, the members of the subcommittee, in general, were not supportive of that and helped us a great deal.

The two biggest concerns right now: One, of course, is the earthquake. The federal government spent, I think, about \$13 million to \$15 million on earthquake relief through USAID. The figure that is now being thrown out, in terms of the level that would be needed, is significantly higher, something like \$100

million.

I know some members of the subcommittee have expressed support for that. I would like to see that level of assistance provided, and so I put that in my testimony.

The other thing is with regard to the sanctions. Some of the sanctions are still in place in the advent of the nuclear testing that was done by India and Pakistan a few years ago. I would like, and the members of the India Caucus, would like to see all those sanctions removed.

The biggest one right now is with regard to the World Bank. The U.S. continues to oppose some World Bank loans to India. That is important, obviously, in terms of the earthquake. There have been applications in World Bank for earthquake relief and for other areas. And I would like to see some language, if possible, put into the bill where we basically call on the President to waive all U.S. opposition to World Bank loans for India.

The sanctions are now at the discretion of the President, because of language that was put in the DOD appropriation a few years ago, and we would like to see that eliminated completely.

Other than that, I just wanted to say briefly that I continue to support the bipartisan foreign aid assistance to Israel. And the last thing I wanted to mention is to maintain the annual \$15 million appropriation provided to Cyprus every year. There are obviously ongoing efforts by the U.S. and UN to try to resolve the Cyprus conflict between Greece and Turkey, and so we should continue that role of assistance.

Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Pallone. I am impressed by the range of your interests here.

Mr. Pallone. Well, it tends to be Mideast and Central Asia.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much. Thank you.

I know you have testified many times before us, and I think you have had a real impact on the subcommittee and its work. We thank you for your interest in these areas.

Mr. Pallone. Thank you very much.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.004

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.005

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.006

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.007

Mr. Kolbe. Mrs. Morella, even though you missed your slot, we will take you here at this point, if we can.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

PROGRAMS TO SAVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

WITNESS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE

OF MARYLAND

Mrs. Morella. Mr. Chairman, I apologize to those who have succeeded me, who are the leaders in the area that I am going to address. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Kolbe. We will put your full statement on the record if you wish.

Mrs. Morella. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. But we are going to be very strict about the five-minute rule, because I have about 47 people----

Mrs. Morella. I think it is very important; you are chairing a very important subcommittee. It has always been very important to me because I feel very strongly about those programs that save, protect and enhance the lives of women and children around the world, such as infectious disease control, TB in particular, which I will be speaking to you about; child survival; UNICEF; basic education.

I want to congratulate you on your chairmanship, and Mrs. Lowey, who is your ranking member on this committee.

First of all, I would also kind of like to associate myself with the statements made by Mr. Pallone in terms of Armenia and help for Armenia and India, too. But I want to particularly concentrate on tuberculosis control.

And I know succeeding me will be Sherrod Brown, who has been a real leader in that area. And we have worked together very successfully on this, because there have been some significant differences.

I have a little chart here. I do not think I have this in your statement. But the current level of funding for tuberculosis in your budget is \$60 million. We are requesting \$200 million for fiscal year 2002.

Four years ago, international tuberculosis funding received no money. Three years ago, it received \$12 million. Two years ago, it received \$35 million. Last year, Congress appropriated \$60 million. And we are now requesting, respectfully, \$200 million for fiscal year 2002.

This would provide \$200 million to USAID to collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control, the NIH, the World Health Organization. And based on World Bank estimates, treatment for tuberculosis is one of the most cost-effective interventions available, costing just \$20 to \$100 to save a life.

I could talk to you more about TB control, but very briefly, tuberculosis kills more women worldwide than all of the causes of maternal mortality combined. Currently, an estimated one-third of the world's population, including 15 million people in the United States, are infected with tuberculosis bacteria. And due to its infectious nature, TB cannot be stopped at national borders. We have been reading about that. Even in my county, there was an epidemic of it. It is impossible to control tuberculosis in the United States until we control it worldwide.

In the developing world, tuberculosis destroys girls' and women's futures. It tends to attack its victims in their most productive years, often killing or sickening the primary breadwinner of the family. And this, of course, has its ripple effect on the loss of educational opportunity for girls in poor families. In India alone, 300,000 children leave school because of their parents' tuberculosis.

And in some parts of the world, there is a great stigma attached to contracting tuberculosis, which leads to increased isolation, abandonment, divorce of women. And again, using India as an example, recent studies have found that 100,000 women are rejected by their families because of tuberculosis every year. And I could get into Nepal, and the stories of young widows with no income or prospects for another marriage, turning to prostitution in order to support their families.

And of course, all across Africa, a surge in deaths as the devastation of TB and HIV; co-epidemics surpass the devastation of any disease on its own. And tuberculosis is the leading cause of death among HIV-positive people, and it accounts for one-third of AIDS deaths worldwide, 40 percent or more of AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa. And sub-Saharan Africa has the world's highest tuberculosis incidence.

Effective TB treatment is one of the most cost-effective, tangible interventions. It can extend the life of HIV-infected persons, protect families from financial ruin, and enable women and children to enjoy a brighter future.

At any rate, just basically going on, tuberculosis experts have said that \$1 billion addition is needed to adequately address this killer. There are multiple drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis. An appropriate U.S. share of that amount, of that \$1 billion, would be \$200 million, and that is a small price to pay for a healthy future.

And with that funding, you could seriously tackle this killer, by expanding the DOTS coverage, which is a proven treatment, including providing needed drugs to an important new Global TB Drug Facility.

I mention those figures at first just to show you we have made some strides, and we have begun to recognize how important it is that we play our part in it.

And so I hope, Mr. Chairman, that you will not only read the testimony, which gives a lot more instances, but I hope that you will act on our request. I thank you sir.

Mr. Kolbe. And we appreciate your commitment. And as I have identified, this is one of the issues that very strongly this subcommittee needs to be involved with. And I appreciate your commitment. It is helpful to me to have the numbers.

Mrs. Morella. Thank you. I appreciate very much the fact that you let me testify before the subcommittee.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.008

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.009

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.010

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.011

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you.
Sherrod. Mr. Brown.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

TUBERCULOSIS THREAT

WITNESS

HON. SHERROD BROWN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mr. Brown. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will finish before the sand runs out. I promise.

[Laughter.]

I want to thank Mrs. Morella for the good work she has done on TB, and also Mr. Waxman and Mr. Ganske and Mrs. Wilson, from the state next door to yours. I particularly appreciate your public comments, your words in the op-ed piece in the Arizona newspaper earlier this month.

Mr. Kolbe. I am surprised you read it.

Mr. Brown. I read everything about tuberculosis.

But Mrs. Morella mentioned the numbers, and there are 2 billion people in this world, one-third of the world's population, that carry the tuberculosis bacteria. There are 15 million people in this country that carry it. Most will never get TB, but some 10 percent will likely get an active form of tuberculosis; some smaller number will get multidrug-resistant TB.

Eleven hundred people in India a day die from tuberculosis. India is in deep trouble as HIV/AIDS begins to move in higher numbers to India, and the synergism, if you will, of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis is an absolute killer. More than half of the people of India carry the TB bacteria. We can expect huge problems when their immune systems are weaker with HIV/AIDS, in the second-largest, maybe soon to be largest, most populous country in the world.

Tuberculosis is a disease, as Mrs. Morella said, that preys on the poor, and then creates more poor people, because the people that typically are felled or victimized by TB are in their 20s and 30s and 40s, mothers and fathers that simply then cannot care for their children and cannot make a living the way that they need to.

About \$1 billion, as Mrs. Morella said; we are asking for \$200 million. A \$1 billion commitment from the world, from philanthropists and from wealthy nations like ours, will cut the TB death rate in half over the next 10 years, if we can do \$1 billion each year.

Of the \$200 million, we would like to see a good part of that devoted to the Global TB Drug Facility, which would actually buy the drugs. TB can be controlled with between \$20 and \$100 per patient in the developing world, with directly observed treatment short course, as you know.

Absolutely, it has been proven to cut, in the case of India. In one state in India, in one area, it cut the death rate by 95 percent. If it is done right, enough people get the drugs. If the infrastructure is built, as part of our money will help to do, it will absolutely make a difference, as it already has in India and around the world.

I mention India because it has the highest TB rates, but a third of the people that die from AIDS, more than a third of the people who die from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, actually are dying from TB. It is a terrible, terrible disease, especially in conjunction with weak immune systems from HIV/

AIDS, from poverty, from hunger, with older people who are just physically weaker.

So I ask this subcommittee, for humanitarian reasons, to appropriate \$200 million. And because it is in our national interest, as others have said, as TB ultimately knows no borders, especially multidrug-resistant TB. That is why we need to go after regular TB through the DOTS treatment, and ultimately then move on to sort of a second battle against multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

I will complete my statement, Mr. Chairman.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.012

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.013

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much. I really appreciate your commitment on this issue, something that I, too, believe in very strongly.

Mr. Brown. Thank you.

I know you have been very involved in this the last session, when I testified. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Morella. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. The ranking member, thank you very much for joining us here.

Mrs. Lowey. My pleasure.

Mr. Kolbe. Tony Hall.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

INTERNATIONAL POLICY ATTITUDES

WITNESS

HON. TONY HALL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mr. Hall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have a written statement, and I can present this to you. I do not know if you already have it, but I would like for it to be part of the record. I will not read from it. I will just go through a few ideas and suggestions.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you. The whole statement will be in the record.

Mr. Hall. Thank you. It is good to be before you and Mrs. Lowey. And I think this is one of the great committees in Congress. A lot of members do not want to be on it. But if I was not on the Rules Committee, this would be my first choice. I think it is a great committee, and you do a lot.

And nobody is coming in to thank you. That is why it is a good committee, because you can do it without constituent pressure. But you do not have a lot of constituents backing you up either.

On the other hand, it is very interesting. Recently, they did a poll, and the poll said that 87 percent of Americans support giving food and medical assistance to countries in need. That is 87 percent. And 73 percent support helping them develop their economies. I found that amazing.

I am a big believer in foreign aid. I never run away from it. I embrace it. And I even, when I do a poll in my district, skew my poll against me by saying, ``Tony Hall thinks more of Third World nations,' ' normally, it depends on what countries they name, Ethiopia, than it does their children. You know, 80 percent of the people in my district said ``No, no way.' '

So I know that you and Mrs. Lowey know this. And I am very, very glad that you are leading this committee, both of you.

I have seen foreign aid work so very, very well. North Korea, I have been there six times. And the first time I went, people ran from me. And they were scared because they were not used to seeing Westerners. They used to have pictures of Americans bayoneting children, North Korean children.

But now when I go there, people thank me for the United States, for the food. And they want to talk. They thank us over and over again. They salute whatever caravan I am in. It is amazing.

Foreign aid, or humanitarian aid, food aid, we have given through the World Food Program has done more for our contact with North Korea, and stopped the missiles being sent over Japan. I mean, you can talk to all of the negotiators and diplomats that you want; I do not believe that they have done a doggone thing for the peace process. Because of our humanitarian aid, these people will never forget what we have done for them, and we can do a lot more.

Last year, I saw a Kenyan community escape its neighbors' dependence on aid, even during the worst drought in 40 years, because they had U.S. support for irrigation projects.

I think I remain concerned that our investments are very skewed to old political priorities. For example, Asia, where the majority of the world's people live, in three of the four largest nations, they only merit about 5 percent of our resources. And so, I think we really need to take a look at that.

At the same time, we know what is going on in Africa. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called upon the United States to reevaluate our spending priorities, and direct \$1 billion to help ease poverty and suffering in sub-Saharan Africa. And Bread for the World, one of our country's most effective grassroots lobby, has launched a campaign to achieve a similar goal.

We have a lot of new challenges. Last year, I was in Iraq, and we do not want to really touch Iraq because of a lot of political concerns and stuff, but we should, because the people there are really, really suffering.

And again, it is a lot like North Korea. We do not like the government. We do not like what is going on. But the people are suffering, and the International Red Cross has appealed to us for \$11 million in relief for Iraq's people and for their drought and medical needs. We are not helping like we can. Of course, Saddam Hussein is not helping either. But we could really aid the people.

And I hope that we can increase our aid to the World Food Program. I have seen their work in so many countries of the world, and I am asking that maybe you increase it by \$3 million, from \$20 million to \$23 million.

UNICEF, they are asking to increase our contribution to

\$120 million. And UNHCR, these three UN agencies are tremendous, and they really, really need our help. They go into areas that so many countries do not touch. So I hope we really look at that.

I hope we continue to maintain our child survival money, along with that, basic education. That is one thing the committee has done, and is very, very good at. They have been very good at it. And it has really, really helped. We lead the world in that. There is no question about it.

Then there is this new initiative that I am sure you have heard about, and many of the people are urging this committee to sustain or increase its \$50 million contribution to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations. This is the Bill Gates foundation, which has put a tremendous amount of money in. I know that you are aware of it.

I hope the committee will also provide money for the debt burden that they have worked on in the past; that is so very, very important.

Fourth, I think another priority is microcredit. Microcredit works. You have seen it work. I have seen it work in so many different nations. It does not take a lot of money, and it really, really helps people get on their feet.

So with that, I just thank you for the chance to be here.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.014

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.015

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.016

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.017

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.018

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.019

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.020

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.021

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.022

Mr. Kolbe. Mr. Hall, we very much appreciate your being here. I think it is safe to say you have been the conscience of the House of Representatives for many years now. I think your testimony carries special weight with us, and we certainly appreciate the support you have given the work of this subcommittee.

Mrs. Lowey. You are an inspiration. You show us all what one person can do.

Mr. Hall. No, I----

Mr. Kolbe. It is true. And we have been joined by Mr. Kingston. We appreciate Mr. Kingston's views.

Mr. Hall. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Lowey. Thanks so much.

Mr. Kolbe. Mr. Jim Walsh.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

WITNESS

HON. JAMES WALSH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Walsh. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee. Thank you for giving me a few minutes to address an issue.

First of all, Chairman Kolbe, congratulations. I think this subcommittee is in very good hands, and I wish you all the best.

I know your priorities. I am very excited, certainly, about the discussion that we had just recently about a number of them, including the HIV crisis in Africa. I think it is remarkable that you are willing to take that on, with the assistance of the subcommittee. And I think you can make a real difference there. And you have my support.

I have joined with Tony Hall on a number of issues over the past, some of which I will discuss with you. He is, as you said, a remarkable leader on these health issues around the globe. And he is to be commended also.

Four issues--I think there are four: child survival; tuberculosis control, which is tied up with HIV; UNICEF; International Fund for Ireland; Peace Corps. I guess that is five.

I am a former Peace Corps volunteer, as was Tony Hall. So I guess that has brought us together, certainly, but Peace Corps does a remarkable job for relatively inexpensive costs, given the goodwill that it creates. And it creates some real leaders in this country, too. So I think it is a good investment.

Child survival activities. I would urge you to support additional increases in child survival, given the budget constraints. For UNICEF, basic education. Vitamin A micronutrient program, Bread for the World has really been a great leader there.

Making a Difference, Sonny Callahan picked that up. With the help of the subcommittee, set up a separate line item in the budget for it, and it has solidified our country's commitment to kids all over the globe. And it is something we can all be proud of.

TB. Less than 25 percent of those sick with TB actually receive proper treatment around the globe. It kills millions of people every year. It is an insidious disease. It has been around for far too long. It is not going away. If anything, it is worse than it was. When I was diagnosed, turning positive on a test, and took TB medicine for two years, carried bottles and bottles of pills around with me while I was in Nepal. But I am healthy. But there are a lot of people who are dying from it, and so the funds are needed there.

International Fund for Ireland. As chairman of the Friends of Ireland, it is something that I bring before this committee every time. It is \$25 million. People talk about the Celtic

tiger and the economy in the Republic of Ireland. There is no question that it is there.

But in the north and in border counties, there are still pockets, deep pockets, of high unemployment. And this is really the United States commitment to the peace process. It creates work projects that bring Protestants and Catholics together. It gives them a crucible to develop interpersonal relationships. It really has improved the economy in some of these pockets, and it has definitely improved the civility within the country.

So thank you for your time.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.023

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.024

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.025

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you.

Mrs. Lowey. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. I spent the weekend traveling with another Peace Corps volunteer, and it reminds me of the impact that organization can have on public policy by the handful of members that it has in Congress. You people have really made a difference, and we really appreciate it.

Mr. Walsh. We are everywhere.

Mr. Kolbe. You are.

In El Salvador, all the Peace Corps volunteers have been brought in to help in the relief from the earthquake there. It is really very inspirational.

Mr. Walsh. And I think this may be the crisis group that they set up to get people with El Salvadoran, for example, experience and language experience, to go back and help out, and then withdraw after the crisis is past.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

Mr. Walsh. Thank you all for your time.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you.

Mr. Crowley.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

WITNESS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Crowley. Is there something not said yet? [Laughter.]

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Crowley.

Mr. Crowley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you giving me this opportunity.

And, Ranking Member Lowey, thank you.

As a member of the International Relations Committee and the representative of one of the most diverse districts in the country, I have seen firsthand the important role foreign assistance plays in development of the social, political and

economic climate in our world. The work of the subcommittee is essential, and I applaud you for your many accomplishments.

This year, I come before you to provide a brief overview of several projects that I seek to continue the work that this nation has been so successful in supporting in the past.

The first project that I would like to discuss is the Galilee Society. I come before you today to request an earmark of \$250,000 for that society. The Galilee Society is a well-established, highly respected, nonprofit organization that works in Israel to improve health care and the environment in the Israeli Arab community.

The Galilee Society has 20 years of experience in providing professional research and services to this community in conjunction with Israeli universities and government agencies, along with other partners from Jordan, Egypt and the West Bank. The funding I am seeking on behalf of this organization would be used to advance these ongoing efforts.

Established in 1981, the Galilee Society is the leading Israeli Arab nongovernmental organization in the country, with offices and facilities in the Galilee region in northern Israel and Be'er Sheva in the south. With 30 employees, both Jewish and Arab, the Galilee Society has established itself as a major catalyst for establishing local community health, environmental, development and educational projects. The Galilee Society works with multiple Israeli and non-Israeli partners such as USAID in the region to solve problems of mutual interests.

In light of the violence that has consumed the state of Israel during the past five months, programs such as those offered by the Galilee Society lay the foundation for peace by facilitating a climate of cooperation and trust.

The next project that I want to talk about and submit for your consideration is a \$250,000 grant to the International Women's Democracy Center, IWDC. The IWDC is a global, nongovernmental organization which was established to strengthen women's global leadership roles through training, education, networking and research in all facets of democracy, with a particular focus on increasing the participation of women in policy, politics and decisionmaking. IWDC is committed to responding to the increasing need of women leaders around the world to acquire the technical skills and leadership tools so critical to their leadership roles in the next millennium.

I have seen firsthand the work of the IWDC in action. In partnership with the Ulster People's College in Northern Ireland, IWDC designed the Community Advocate Mentor Program to strengthen the public policy, lobbying and advocacy skills of community-based women leaders from across Northern Ireland.

Last September, 23 women came to D.C. for two intensive weeks of training, which were a hands-on look at how our legislative process functions and included the intersections of the judiciary, executive and legislative branches. The training encouraged them to take what was applicable back to Northern Ireland and use it as they become more engaged with their newly elected assembly.

As part of the program, each woman spent two days shadowing a D.C.-based lobbyist, going to strategy meetings, fund-raisers, press conferences and other client-based events. An

additional day was spent shadowing a member of Congress to learn firsthand about the competing pressures we face in our job from constituents, special interests, colleagues and others.

Through these mentorship opportunities and hands-on workshops, the women leaders gained the necessary tools and skills to determinate how best to begin to lobby their newly elected legislators and how to advocate for the issues critical to the their communities.

I would now like to call your attention to crucial funding considerations contained in the global health bill that I plan to reintroduce in Congress.

Men, women and children all over the world are struggling, as you heard from previous speakers, with the impact of an HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa that threatens to engulf parts of Asia over the next few years and destabilize regional security on each of these continents.

The former Soviet Union has the most rapidly growing number of HIV/AIDS cases in he world and has already overwhelmed its faltering health care infrastructure.

The people of these developing countries are struggling with the fact that more than 10 million children die each year before their fifth birthday from preventable diseases in those developing countries. They are struggling with the continued impact of global infectious disease such as tuberculosis, malaria and other infections that threaten their lives, the lives of their children, the viability of their villages, their economies and their national security.

In response to these potential and existing crises, I will be submitting a request for \$250 million for HIV/AIDS prevention and research, \$225 million for child survival, \$200 million for research, \$200 million for international family planning and \$100 million for maternal health.

And finally, my last point is on the IFI as well, that Jim Walsh has spoken about, with also inclusion in that the \$250,000 for Project Children. It is a working entity that you are very, very aware of.

And I want to thank all of you for your time and consideration for those potential projects.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.026

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.027

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.028

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Crowley.

Mr. Crowley. And I hope I did speak too quick for a New Yorker, but Nita Lowey got me. [Laughter.]

Mrs. Lowey. I will interpret. No problem.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Crowley.

Let's see, Mr. Visclosky is not here yet.

Mr. Kirk. Mr. Kirk, you are sitting back on this side here. We are delighted that you are sitting over there. And it is a great honor for us to have you here as a member of the House, and we are just so pleased to have you testifying before us.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

WITNESS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Kirk. Thank you. As Charlie and John and everybody know, this is something that I have had some experience with in the past.

Mr. Kolbe. Just a little bit.

Mr. Kingston. Mr. Chairman, excuse me, but I do not think we want any witness who knows too much. [Laughter.]

He can tell us where he wants it inserted in the budget.

Mrs. Lowey. I join the chairman in welcoming Mark. Nice to see you.

Mr. Kirk. I just want to raise four things from the heart very quickly. To extend my offer of help and support----

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you.

Mr. Kirk [continuing]. On the Mexico City policy, which will no doubt bedevil this bill.

Mrs. Lowey. Hopefully not.

Mr. Kirk. And to say something new, which is that something has changed in the last three years. We have a huge body of new evidence available on the effect of modern family planning on reducing abortion rates. And we see that in a number of former Soviet republics--Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, et cetera--where you see dramatically dropping abortion rates with the introduction of modern contraceptives. And I want to work with you on that, to bring that body of information to the floor and talk about how, if you are concerned about eliminating abortion, then you are for modern family planning.

Something also that I want to talk about, the unique relationship between AID and the domestic contraceptive industry. What contraceptive industry? AID is alone in developing new and modern contraceptives, and American women do not have access to the same modern and effective contraceptives as European women. Why? Because of the Trial Lawyers Association.

The industry was killed off in this country. And I think we have to look at tort reform so that we can have American women with the same access to modern, effective contraceptives as European women do now. Point one.

Point two is, I have a very strong, active Armenian community in our district that is raising money on their own for relief work in Armenia. I just want to put in the point how much I support the role of AID in Armenia in what they are doing.

I am very pleased to see all the support for the international AIDS program in this bill. That program was started by John Porter in 1985 over strenuous objections, we founded that program in the cafeteria in the Longworth Office Building with a \$25 million earmark, and we saw that this program has now become a huge focus of interest.

The reason for our interest, Mr. Porter's interest, is that the AIDS test was developed in my district, in Deerfield, Illinois. And when it was donated to the World Health Organization, we got an astonishing answer, that the HIV prevalence rates were far and above what they were in the United States. In Central Africa, all the people who were affected were heterosexuals, not homosexuals. They were Zaireans, Angolans, et cetera; they were not Haitians. And we broke several of the stigmas attached to AIDS then.

Critical issue before us now, and I think what this committee can help on, is developing a policy in which we definitely continue the advancement, the development of diagnostic kits and treatment. We are about to launch, once again out of Deerfield, Illinois, Kaletra, the most powerful anti-AIDS drug available; not yet available to Americans, but about to be. And continuing that research and development is crucial.

Some of the policy decisions looked at in South Africa would have killed off the industry, and having that medical development is crucial. What has not been really looked at is that we are also developing an entirely new diagnostic kit that will be available for under \$1 per dose, entirely appropriate for the Third World context.

But I have a concern here. Under the previous administration, we divided AIDS policy from power. Originally, under the Global Program on AIDS, policy and power were united under one budget at the World Health Organization. But since that time, we have created UNAIDS, which has no budget authority, and the largest provider of assistance to countries to fight AIDS is the World Bank. And yet the World Bank does not really play much with UNAIDS.

Since the authorizers are not going to move forward with a policy bill, I think it is incumbent upon you to unify AIDS budget and AIDS policymaking. I would recommend that that be done at the World Bank, because they are the ones with the biggest check now on AIDS, and you could also probably use the authority and strength of the WHO.

I would argue that we not go forward with the current structure in which the head of UNAIDS simply has a policy to be able to recommend to other agencies what goes on, but, quite frankly, the World Bank can ignore what they say.

The final point I want to raise is on Israel. They face a growing missile threat, and as you shift our assistance to Israel to the military account, there are two exciting programs that are going on there that I think will help U.S. armed forces, as well as Israel: the ground-based laser and the Arrow missile.

In the past, we have not supported it through this account, and I am going to work as hard as I can through the 050 DOD process to support those accounts, but I think we should also look at what we can do to help Israel through this account. And I think that is going to be a growing issue.

Anybody you talk to in the Israeli leadership now, missile defense will come up pretty much as item one. And the deployment of the Patriot system that we saw to Israel last summer only underscores that unless Israel provides that kind of defense, the United States Army will, and I think it is

better that Israel be able to do that.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.029

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.030

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.031

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.032

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very, very much, Mr. Kirk.

Mr. Kirk. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. It is obvious from your testimony, we are very fortunate to have you as a member of the House. Thank you.

Mr. Kirk. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Ms. Kilpatrick.

Ms. Kilpatrick. Mr. Chairman, these Appropriations Committees seem to be scheduled on top of each other.

Mr. Kolbe. They are.

Ms. Kilpatrick. So I am telling you I am better than this, but sorry for being late.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

We will take Mr. Visclosky. Though he missed his time slot, we will take him now.

Thank you, Mr. Visclosky.

We will put your full statement in the record, if you would like. We are trying to stick to the five-minute rule so we do not fall too far behind.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

WITNESS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA.

Mr. Visclosky. Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lowey, members of the subcommittee, you have been very attentive to my requests in the past and you have been very generous and your staff has been very professional and helpful to us. I want to thank you for that.

I mentioned in my testimony, I have asked for an earmark for the University of Notre Dame's Keough Institute for a joint venture they have with the University of Ulster. I would ask that the subcommittee also retain Section 907 language regarding Armenia and Azerbaijan. And with that, I will conclude my remarks.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.033

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.034

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.035

Mr. Kolbe. Well, that is very nice. [Laughter.]
Mr. Kingston. Is he a member of the committee or something,
Mr. Chairman? Does he know something--
Mr. Kolbe. We thank you very much.
I do see Mr. Pomeroy here.
We welcome Mr. Earl Pomeroy. Thank you very much for
joining us here.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

BASIC EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

WITNESS

HON. EARL POMEROY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH
DAKOTA

Mr. Pomeroy. Mr. Chairman, thank you. I am very pleased to
present to the subcommittee, and I will be providing a written
copy of my statement.

The issue that I want to speak to is the funding of basic
education as funded by AID programs. Mark Green and I had the
most extraordinary experience in January. As the guests of
three nongovernmental organizations, we literally toured the
schools that these funds have made possible in the countries of
Mali and Ghana.

Mali, as you know, Mr. Chairman, is one of the very poorest
countries in the entire world with average per capita income
below \$300, less than \$1 a day. And yet, we found from these
schools hope and increasing receptivity not just with the eager
students, but also their families and the community about the
value these schools were providing to the villages.

There has been a lot of change in Mali relative to their
educational systems. And the President is committed to one
teacher, one school per village, which is an aggressive
expansion plan for that country. They have also changed their
manner of instruction, moving from French to the mother tongue
for the first three years of instruction.

And using educational materials developed by the Academy of
Education Development, a nongovernmental organization funded by
AID, they have moved education into life skills. So as they
teach reading, for example, they are teaching also nutrition or
they are teaching sanitation, basic life skills, giving the
learning immediate relevance.

The results were told to us by the parents themselves.
Children help the subsistence farmers make certain they do not
get ripped off by the cotton traders anymore. I told them our
farmers had similar concerns as they sold their crops. They do
not have to look throughout the village to find someone that
can read or write a letter; every family has someone with this
capacity.

This is a country where the adult literacy rates for women
are below 50 percent and men in the low 60s; the average
lifespan is 46 years. So you can see the tremendous need for
expanding basic education. I am pleased to say to you that what
I saw occurring was very, very impressive.

Mark and I went on this trip because we became convinced that education is a way to affect systemic, long-term change for our foreign aid dollar. And all too often it seems like we come in and clean up after the crime scene, but this is a way of changing children, which changes their families, which change their villages, which change their community, and ultimately the country. I really believe that. And I think the macroeconomic data supports that as well.

Secretary Larry Summers, the former secretary and now Harvard president Larry Summers, when he was chief economist at the World Bank, said investing in girls' education is about the best investment you can make in terms of international development.

The studies have shown that for each year of education beyond grade four, you have up to a 10 percent reduction in family size, up to a 10 percent reduction in rates of infant and child mortality, up to 15 to 20 percent increase in wages.

And so I really would like to see, Mr. Chairman, us, within the very tight Foreign Ops budget, come to a bipartisan consensus, as Mark Green and I did on our trip, that this is money well-spent and we need to do more.

We were previously at something like--Charlie knows much better than me--but about \$136 million, I think, in the early 1990s, back to a frozen account of about \$93 million, and with your assistance, a slight increase in funding last year. And that is good.

We are not frozen, we are moving. But I think a goal that I believe that will reflect an appropriate commitment of resources in this area would be funding levels in the \$146 million range this year, moving essentially to a doubling of the commitment over two years. The funding level, again, this past year was, I think, \$103 million, and so it is, I recognize, a substantial increase.

Part of the difficulty is, we invented this account, child survival and basic education. So if you are going to increase basic education, what are you going to do, cut back on vaccinating children? I mean, that has been just an unacceptable, in my opinion, and unnecessary choice. What we need is to recognize that there is no better foreign aid dollar than in basic ed, in particular girls' ed, because those are the ones most frequently left out of the education system, and increasing the funding, as I have asked.

That concludes my presentation. I would be happy to take questions.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.036

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.037

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.038

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.039

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.040

Mr. Kolbe. We thank you very much for your commitment on this. And the work that you have done on Africa really helps us understand these issues a lot better. We appreciate it. Thank

you very much, Mr. Pomeroy.

Mr. Pomeroy. Mr. Chairman, I went to kind of check out a theory, and I found this trip to be a life-changing one. I mean, count me on a crusade to do more for children's education. I feel that strongly about it.

Mrs. Lowey. As Charlie knows.

Mr. Kolbe. One of the really interesting things to me is listening to--first time I have had to the opportunity to chair this hearing, public hearing--is the number of members who pick up particular causes and bring that information back to the other members of the Congress, and it really makes a huge difference. It is really inspiring to me. So we thank you very much, Mr. Pomeroy.

Mr. Pomeroy. I thank you. I want to note that Mark Green had previously taught in Kenya, and so his participation in this trip was extremely important, greatly enhanced my own learning.

Mr. Kolbe. Was he Peace Corps?

Mr. Pomeroy. No, it was some teacher exchange thing. But in the late 1980s, he taught for an entire year. Got malaria and dysentery and everything else, but his commitment to Africa and children's ed there is really phenomenal.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Lowey. Thank you so much.

Mr. Kolbe. I do not see Mr. Baird here, but Mr. Burrill is here, so we will go to Mr. Burrill at this point.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WITNESS

GEORGE BURRILL, CHAIR OF B.A.I.E.D.

Mr. Burrill. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lowey.

Mr. Kolbe. Good afternoon.

Mr. Burrill. My name is George Burrill, president of ARD, Inc., and I am here today in my capacity as chair of the Business Alliance for International Economic Development, a coalition of nine trade associations which collectively represents hundreds of companies.

And I would like to stress the rationale for development assistance, knowing that others will address the issue of humanitarian assistance. And the question that I would like to most directly address is: Foreign assistance, what is in it for Americans?

The Business Alliance believes the targeted investments we make today in USAID in the form of sustainable development assistance will pay economic dividends to the United States well into the future.

Our administration's preliminary budget request for Foreign Operations for fiscal year 2002 is \$15.1 billion, and we believe that this funding level is inadequate, both from the perspective of meeting this country's responsibilities to provide humanitarian assistance to the world's poorer nations,

but also from the perspective of laying the foundations for sustained economic growth in emerging markets and developing countries.

Foreign assistance increases our exports and creates jobs by developing the economies of poorer countries so that they are able to buy our goods. Foreign assistance increases the number and the quality of our trading partners by helping countries that are undergoing difficult transitions to achieve political and economic stability. And foreign assistance protects our own economy from the ravages of disease, environmental degradation, destruction and overpopulation by treating global problems at their source.

Today, exports account for 10 percent of the entire U.S. economy. That is double the level of only a decade ago. And the fastest-growing markets for U.S. goods and services are in the developing world. Between 1990 and 1995, annual exports to developing countries increased by \$100 billion. That export boom created roughly 1.9 million jobs in the United States.

Unfortunately, while the United States has been withdrawing and cutting foreign assistance, our competitors have stepped in to fill the void and are now much more active in some of the most promising developing country markets.

OECD research reveals that in 1999 the United States was dead last in official development assistance as a percentage of GNP among the 22 members of the Development Assistance Committee. The European Union and Japan gave in excess of 0.3 of 1 percent of GNP and the United States gave only 0.1 of 1 percent. I realize these are numbers that you are all familiar with.

The economy of the European Union's 15 member nations is only about 5 percent larger than our own. However, in 1999, the EU contributed almost three times as much official development assistance as did the United States. EU contributed \$26.7 billion compared to \$9.1 billion by the United States.

The EU gave more than twice as much official development assistance in 1999 to Latin America, our own neighbors, than did the United States.

Some critics of foreign assistance believe the private sector should make these investments, and indeed they should, and they are. However, there is a level of basic investment that only government can make.

For example, programs that change legal systems, induce policy reform, protect intellectual property, promote democracy, improve health and education, all these steps have to be achieved to assure sustained economic growth.

Social and economic stability is an important goal of U.S. engagement through development assistance. And when countries achieve economic growth and build a strong middle class, the likelihood that American troops will be called in to restore social order is greatly diminished.

A stable economy is one that will invite private foreign investment and create good trading partners for U.S. goods and services.

The economic activity we are seeing in the developing world is tightly linked to the work the U.S. government carried out 20 and 30 years ago. Mr. Chairman, if Congress doubled the foreign assistance budget, it would be about the right level. The American public would be well-rewarded for the investment.

That level would still be, today's dollars, less than we were spending in the mid-1970s.

Two final points, and that is that our group would urge you as much as possible to resist earmarks to the extent you can; and also that, obviously from what I have said, the development assistance part of the aid budget is absolutely critical. And really, for all Americans to benefit from global engagement, the leadership has to come from our elected officials.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.041

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.042

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.043

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.044

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.045

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.046

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.047

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.048

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.049

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Burrill. In the interests of time, I will not get into a debate, but I just want to comment on one point you made about relative amounts of aid the United States gives vis-a-vis Europe and some of the others.

I came back from my first official trip as chairman of the subcommittee from Central America and South America this past weekend, and while future information may change my mind again about it, I come with a slightly different perspective about that than I had before, which was certainly agreement, had been agreement with you.

For example, in Central America, of the money pledged following Hurricane Mitch, not one penny from Europe has reached there yet, not one penny has been released. And they are quite aware of that. They have lots of pledges, but no money has shown up on their doorstep. So it has been the United States that has been there actually providing the assistance.

Mr. Burrill. There are instances of this on the ground, absolutely, where the United States has been much more proactive. I think Colombia's another example.

Mr. Kolbe. Lots of promises at the pledging little meeting in Madrid, but nothing is there. And even what they pledged, of course, is just reallocated loans from long-term loans, development assistance to emergency assistance.

I appreciate very much your comments. Thank you very much for coming. Appreciate it.

We are joined now by Mr. Baird. And thank you for coming. And I will disappear for one second and have Mrs. Lowey chair this while I go up the stairs and vote.

Mr. Baird, please go ahead.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

TUBERCULOSIS THREAT

WITNESS

HON. BRIAN BAIRD, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Mr. Baird. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate this opportunity to speak to the committee and appreciate your leadership, as well as the ranking member's.

I would like to address today one of the issues of great concern internationally on the health care front, and that is the growing problem posed by tuberculosis. This disease is not only a problem throughout the developing world, but it disproportionately affects minority and poor populations within the United States.

It is estimated that as much as one-third of the world's population may be infected with tuberculosis. And even though it is a treatable disease, millions die because they lack the resources needed for treatment. World health officials estimate that every 15 seconds a person is infected with this deadly virus, and as a consequence, more people will die of this disease this year than in any other year in history.

As members of this committee know, our colleague, Congressman Sherrod Brown, has introduced a proposal, H.R. 1168, which would increase foreign assistance for TB treatments around the world from current levels of \$60 million to up to \$200 million. The global community worked collectively to eradicate smallpox and is working now to rid the world of the polio virus, and I believe we can do the same with regard to tuberculosis.

Thankfully, a cure for tuberculosis exists, but we must make sure the medicines are administered in the proper way. The cure that is most effective is known as Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse, sometimes known as the acronym DOTS in the treatment community. It is effective in up to 95 percent of the cases, and it is very cost-effective.

The critical element here is that the funding and the supervisory personnel are available so people do not take the medicine in the wrong way and develop drug-resistant TB.

The trouble is that the money and the treatments are not reaching the people who need it. TB control experts estimate that about a billion additional dollars each year would be needed to fully control TB, and my hope would be that this subcommittee could consider investing \$200 million in international TB control for 2002.

The investment, if made now, could provide a much-needed jump start for TB treatment programs in the countries most heavily affected by this killer and could save hundreds of thousands of lives and protect millions more from infection.

Let me add, there is a selfish consideration to this for our own nation. TB, as you know, is infected through airborne

transmission. That is a great problem. Those of us who travel internationally are conceivably exposed to it every time we fly, in fact. And if we do not control it internationally, it is the kind of disease that could affect our population in increasing numbers, particularly as we deal with drug-resistant strains.

I have a personal interest in this on two levels. One level is that my grandfather suffered from TB, and, in fact, spent a great deal of time in upstate New York in Saranac Lake, in a TB-treatment hospital for several years of his life.

The other much more painful, in some ways, recent experience was not directly related to TB, but my father died a month ago from a lung-related illness, and seeing people die from a lung disease of any sort is not pleasant, to say the least, particularly in cases of TB, one that we can protect and prevent.

It is an example of how we need to work on a global level to protect our own health locally. And I would hope this committee can encourage our U.S. involvement and leadership on this critical issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Lowey. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you, Brian, very much for sharing, particularly those experiences.

Mr. Lyons.

Charles Lyons from UNICEF.

Mr. Lyons, thank you very much for joining us here.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

UNITED STATES FUND FOR UNICEF

WITNESS

CHARLES J. LYONS, PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. FUND FOR UNICEF

Mr. Lyons. Mr. Chairman, good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to join you.

My name is Charles Lyons. I am the president of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, which puts me in a very privileged position to represent, literally, tens of thousands of volunteers and donors in our country that support UNICEF's work.

I would like to submit formal testimony for the record, sir, if I may.

I would just like to make several other very brief comments. About the subcommittee itself, we want to congratulate you on your chairmanship of this subcommittee, but also very much welcome Representative Lowey as the ranking minority member.

We look forward to a dialogue with you and to working

together as we have for quite a number of years.

I want also, on behalf of our supporters, to recognize and thank your predecessor, Chairman Callahan, and his colleagues for all of the support, over the years, they have given to children and, specifically, to UNICEF, including writing into law the Child Survival and Disease Programs Fund.

It is hugely important to our work with children around the world. The intent of that fund and the signal it sends about the priority of children is extremely useful in our work.

I think reflective of that, also, is that, for six years, the subcommittee supported UNICEF at the level of \$100 million, the last two years at \$110 million. Those things that UNICEF is credited with accomplishing for kids would have been very substantially less possible without this subcommittee's support. And we are here to thank you for that.

We are, this September, looking ahead at the next decade. We will be reporting on what has been accomplished since the World Summit for Children in 1990. And among other things, we see enormous challenges for kids over the decade, whether it is the HIV plague, whether it is the increase in poverty in a number of countries, the number of emergencies that affect children and affect the way people respond to kids and the programs they can have for kids.

Our experience is it has never been easy to try to help kids and get substantial results in their health and nutrition and education in developing countries, but we have a record of doing that.

We have also identified opportunities over the next decade that we are very excited about and that we will be talking about at the U.N. Special Session on Children.

In that context, we are aware of the President's request for fiscal year 2002. I think it asks for a modest increase overall in the international foreign affairs function. We would respectfully ask your support for a contribution in fiscal year 2002 of \$120 million.

And with those resources, in the short time that we have, I would simply try and say that it will help UNICEF to do, in a way, what is expected of UNICEF, but it will help us fight in more places. I hope it will help us fight smarter. And it will help us reach more kids, immunize more kids, immunize more mothers, move us along in our goal of eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus, for example, that takes the lives of 220,000 women and children, because they do not have a tetanus vaccination.

You made a comment about the response to Hurricane Mitch. I have recently come back from India, in Gujarat, in part, to see the progress that we were making with private resources raised by my organization to help there. And I think, like most people, you probably had an image of that earthquake, I am sure.

This is, probably, a fairly common image of the earthquake. This was a school. But I want to replace that image with something a little more positive.

This is up and running. It is a classroom outside of Bhuj, one of the areas nearest to the epicenter or near the epicenter. One of the most important things we can do in emergencies, after basic water and shelter and food are

provided, is to get the kids back in school.

Another image I would like to leave you with is at this time under construction, a maternal and child health center. It is now fully functioning and working very well. It is the kind of response that we were able to help with by virtue of those volunteers and donors that I mentioned.

Finally, sir, I would like to make reference to the Special Session this fall. I think it is a tremendous opportunity to talk about the opportunities for kids, to articulate a new agenda, as was done in 1990, to showcase support from the United States, including very creative partnerships like the one with Kiwanis International and the work we are doing together to eliminate iodine deficiency. And just in parentheses, I would say, I would certainly support their request this afternoon for \$2.5 million.

We hope President Bush will attend. Twenty-five heads of state are already confirmed to be there.

And with that, sir, I thank you for your time.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

I was particularly interested in your comment about the schools, about education, because when we were in El Salvador over the weekend, that was one of the things, as a result of the earthquake there, they are most concerned about, getting the schools back in.

They already have a very high dropout rate; 40 percent of the children do not finish the sixth grade in rural areas. And if they are out of school a month, two months or three months, you are not going to get them back again. So it is very important to get schools running.

Mr. Lyons. Well, as parents are trying to pull themselves back together, I cannot imagine the relief it is to have your children safely looked after in that kind of traumatic situation.

Mrs. Lowey. Just one quick comment. I thought Carol Bellamy's op-ed in the New York Times was interesting last week, talking about the experience of UNICEF in vaccinating huge populations and the relevance of that to what we are going to be doing with AIDS. So it might be something that we might want to pursue at some point.

Mr. Lyons. Almost all of the kinds of things that people

want to do with kids, no matter what price the drugs drop to for HIV and AIDS, we need a delivery system, whether we are vaccinating. And we have to invest in support for those delivery systems.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Lyons.

Mr. Lyons. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. Mr. Kohr.

Welcome, we are glad to have you here, Mr. Kohr. Thank you very much.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

WITNESS

HOWARD A. KOHR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AIPAC

Mr. Kohr. Thank you. First of all, it is a privilege and an honor to be here again, Mr. Chairman. I want to congratulate you and say we are looking forward to working with you and Ranking Member Lowey in your new roles of leadership in this subcommittee that is so vital to U.S.-Israel relations. It is a privilege.

I come, today, frankly, with a sense of disappointment and frustration and, frankly, even anger over recent events in the Middle East. It is hard to believe that just a year ago, when I was before this subcommittee, we were hoping that the year 2000 would bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Former Prime Minister Barak devoted his entire time in office to the quest for a comprehensive peace. First, he focused on a Syrian track, offering Syria the entire Golan Heights in return for a peace agreement. Syria refused.

And then he decided to unilaterally withdraw from the security zone in southern Lebanon, which he counted on UN pledges that the government of Lebanon and UN forces would keep Hezbollah out of that area. Instead, Israel's troops are out, Hezbollah's are in, and they are accumulating weapons, they are kidnapping Israeli soldiers, and they are threatening northern Israel.

Prime Minister Barak then offered the Palestinians virtually every reasonable thing that they were seeking in the final status negotiations, and this time it was Chairman Arafat who refused, refused not only the unprecedented concessions offered by Israel, but he consciously turned his back on the Oslo peace process.

What we are witnessing on the ground, today, is not a spontaneous popular uprising of Palestinians unhappy with Israeli policies. Rather, we are seeing a well-planned, deliberate, military campaign conducted by the Palestinian leadership to secure through violence what they could not secure at the negotiating table.

No government can tolerate what we are seeing every day in Israel: over 30 incidents a day of live-fire attacks on Israel soldiers and civilians; almost daily terrorist incidents against innocent Israelis, including today's suicide bombing

where two teenagers were merely waiting at a bus station to go to school, to be picked up by the bus, were killed. One of them happens to be the younger brother of someone who actually works at the embassy here in Washington. So the bus bombing in Jerusalem and the senseless murder two days ago of a 10-month-old baby in her stroller in Hebron.

Mr. Chairman, the Palestinian leadership must understand they will gain nothing through violence. Israel's new prime minister is anxious to restart negotiations with the Palestinians, and I know he indicated this to both of you when he met with you last week, to improve the daily lives of Palestinians. But the Palestinian leadership must demonstrate that they reject the path of violence and are willing to enter into more realistic interim arrangements.

Few of the countries and entities with which Israel has signed peace agreements have done enough to make these agreements more than pieces of paper or to convince their people of the benefits of peace.

Other regimes in the region openly espouse the destruction of Israel and are within reach of obtaining weapons of mass destruction. It is now estimated that Iran, with the help of the Russians and the Chinese, will be able to build a nuclear weapon by 2005, an event that would have profound implications for the United States and Israel.

In Iraq, UN inspectors have not been in Iraq for over three years, and there are indications that Saddam Hussein's regime has rebuilt large portions of its prohibited arsenal.

Both Iran and Iraq are doing all they can to take advantage of the current instability to further weaken the Jewish state. The threat of a wider regional conflict is very real today.

In this new strategic environment, even a strong military like Israel's is finding it difficult to maintain its deterrent capabilities. Israel's defense forces have prepared a 10-year plan which will require it to be ready to fight around the clock, in all weather conditions, against enemies at increasingly greater distances.

This must be funded by a country that already spends close to 10 percent of its GDP on defense while also meeting the requirements of dealing with ongoing Palestinian-Hezbollah violence, of paying for a costly withdrawal from Lebanon, and bearing the cost of readiness for a possible escalation of the current violence into a broader war.

U.S. assistance is critical to these efforts. Under the Callahan plan recently endorsed by the administration, Israel is scheduled to receive \$2.04 billion in military assistance and \$720 million in economic support funds in fiscal year 2002. We urge the subcommittee to approve these funds and the traditional terms of that assistance, earmarks, early dispersal and offshore procurement, which is so important to Israel's defensive and deterrence capabilities.

I also hope you will look favorably on the commitment made by the previous administration to provide Israel with additional funding to help meet the cost of withdrawal from Lebanon and of the new technologies to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Now is the time to stand strongly and solidly with our one real ally in the Middle East, Israel.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the day when I can come before this subcommittee and celebrate the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict. After 53 years of statehood, Israel should not have to wonder whether its existence will ever be accepted by its neighbors. Unfortunately, that continues to be a very real question in the Middle East today.

Without United States support and the support of this subcommittee, Israel's continued existence could well have been seriously questioned. Your continued support will be more important than ever as Israel confronts the tremendous military and political challenges it faces in the coming year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Kohr, we appreciate your testimony very much.

Mr. Kohr. You are welcome.

Mr. Kolbe. Lindsay Miller.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

SEEDS OF PEACE

WITNESS

LINDSAY MILLER, V.P. OF SEEDS OF PEACE

Ms. Miller. Good afternoon, Chairman Kolbe and Ranking Member Lowey.

My name is Lindsay Miller. I am vice president of Seeds of Peace.

I want to thank you and the other members of this committee for this honor and opportunity to talk with you briefly about an extraordinary organization.

For nine years, Seeds of Peace has brought youngsters from the Middle East, Cyprus, and now also the Balkans, India and Pakistan, to programs in conflict resolution. Teenagers from these turbulent regions are brought together for the unique conflict resolution programs at the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Maine and at the Seeds of Peace Center for Coexistence in Jerusalem.

These teens develop relationships in an environment which overcomes prejudice, fear and anger. Parallel programs have also been established for the adult educators who accompany the teens to Maine. At camp, these youngsters work to break down the barriers of mistrust and suspicion, and they begin to see one another as people, not as enemies, and, more important, as potential friends.

Seeds of Peace is not about singing a song or planting a tree and calling it peace. What transpires at the coexistence sessions is often painful and reflects the rawness, hatred and stereotypes that fuel the conflicts. What emerges is something quite remarkable: youngsters who are willing to listen to one another, learn from one another and respect one another.

In June of 2000, Seeds of Peace received a congressional appropriation which enabled us to expand the summer experience into a comprehensive year-round program for our alumni.

Even during these most troubled times, the Seeds of Peace staff is on the ground working to help hundreds of Israeli and Arab Seeds sustain their friendships with their former enemies and commitment to coexistence.

We seek to foster genuine coexistence, to humanize the faces in conflict that have too often been deliberately dehumanized. In short, we try to give the enemy a face.

For nine years, Seeds of Peace has succeeded in changing the attitudes of teenagers caught up in bitter and historic conflicts that were not of their making. I would like to introduce one of our Seeds to you, Jawad Issa.

Mr. Issa. Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Jawad Issa, and I am a Palestinian from Gaza attending a boarding school up in Maine.

It is cold there. [Laughter.]

I would like to tell you about myself and a friend whom I never thought I would ever have.

After the war of 1948, my grandparents had lost all of their belongings in Palestine and were forced to live in a refugee camp. My parents both escaped living there, and they have wandered from country to country, six in all, looking for a place to live.

And even now, after we are settled in Gaza, the stamp that is on my passport that says, ``Refugee,'' is not enabling me to live or lead a normal life.

In 1998, I was chosen to attend Seeds of Peace camp by my government. I was faced by many people who tried to talk me out of going there. A teacher of mine took me for an hour and tried to explain to me that I was not going to be doing the right thing. My mother tried to talk me out of it because of fear for my life. And it was only my father who has supported me for

that, and this is how I entered the world that has changed my life.

I never had met an Israeli before, and at Seeds of Peace camp, I met this Israeli kid called Gil. We lived in the same cabin, and we played sports together. We were also assigned to the same discussion group where we talked about the conflict.

Gil Messing is a strong, nationalist Israeli, and he is a leader in the right-wing Likud youth party. His father is a retired colonel in the Israeli army, who has participated in many of the Arab-Israeli wars.

When we looked at our backgrounds, Gil and I realized that we are very different, and we have little in common besides our love for our countries and many of the experiences that made us hate the other side or the enemy.

We were so different that even after our experience at camp, I was shocked to receive a call from him a month later. He was inviting me to come to visit his school in Yavhen, north of Gaza.

After we had set the date, three days later he called me again and he was crying on the phone. And he was telling me, ``Jawad, I am really sorry.'' There was a rumor in the school that upon my visit to his school, I would be under the threat of attack of fanatic Israeli religious students, and so the visit was canceled.

Now, let's forget about this for a little bit and look about how does a Likud member, who almost justifies the killing of Palestinians, have undergone the change to become a person who cries out of fear for a Palestinian's life, my life.

I eventually visited his school, and I eventually visited his home and many other Israelis. And many other visits between Palestinians and Israelis have happened all throughout the region. And the only common thing between those people is that they have been Seeds of Peace graduates.

I am a strong believer in what Seeds of Peace does. And I have had hard times going through the camp and through the program, but I still have this dream of achieving peace. And I see that Seeds of Peace is the only community that helps us eliminate the hatred and grudges held because of prejudice and stereotypes.

Thank you.

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Mr. Kolbe. Jawad, thank you very much.

Sometimes I despair about our prospects of peace in the Middle East, but if we are ever going to achieve it, it is only going to be if we change a generation of young people like you on both sides.

And so I admire very much what Seeds of Peace does, and I certainly admire your commitment, Jawad. Thank you very much for coming down and giving us this testimony here today.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Issa. Thank you.

Mr. Miller. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Dr. Bruce Cohen, Interns for Peace.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

INTERNS FOR PEACE

WITNESS

RABBI BRUCE M. COHEN, INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR OF INTERNS FOR PEACE

Mr. Cohen. Hello, Mr. Chairman, Congresswoman Lowey and members of the subcommittee. Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify to you today on behalf of Interns for Peace, established in 1976 to build an infrastructure for peace by training ethnic peace workers to empower people and unite communities in development.

My name is Rabbi Bruce M. Cohen, and I serve as international director for Interns for Peace, an organization which I founded over a quarter of a century ago.

Today, I am also representing my Palestinian and Israeli counterparts, Hisham Kullab, director and founder of Interns for Peace, Palestinian, who you have met, and Stav Appel,

director, Interns for Peace, Israel.

Today, my focus is on Interns for Peace, Palestinian. And this is the first time that I have testified before Congress. I am here today because the situation has become so acute in the Middle East. I believe that Interns for Peace's proven community development training approach is so critically needed now that I seek U.S. Government funding to implement it on a large scale, enough to build a foundation for a just and lasting peace in the region.

Interns for Peace plays a unique role in promoting peace in the Middle East. It is the only organization that focuses on training community development and peace workers in Palestinian Gaza and the West Bank as well as Israel.

Why is an indigenous corps of trained peace workers so critically needed? The United States, as you so well know, has dedicated huge amounts of time and money to promoting peace in the Middle East. But even if peace is achieved in principle, true peace will require the participation of average people in every ethnic, religious and national group.

The current peace process is taking place at the level of the political elites and essentially ignores the street and the refugee camps, particularly the average Palestinian.

Interns for Peace does not neglect the street but works directly with it, particularly in those very refugee camps, and our interns come from those refugee camps. Interns for Peace has spent decades in developing a proven means of offering ethnic communities in the Middle East alternatives to hatred and violence.

In July of 1999, Palestinian delegates from refugee camps gathered at a USAID-funded conference, organized by Interns for Peace in Ramallah on the West Bank. These delegates came from refugee camps from throughout Gaza and the West Bank and overwhelmingly voted that Interns for Peace expand its training in Gaza and initiate its training programs in the West Bank, so as to create a true peace dividend for the Palestinian people.

To achieve this goal, Interns for Peace has detailed and prepared a proposal, which it will now submit to USAID, to train 160 Palestinian interns in community development, civil society and empowerment of women and youth at risk. These individuals will, in turn, empower 160,000 Palestinians in over 40 refugee camps on the West Bank and Gaza through self-help projects to empower these youth, women and the unemployed.

These 160 Palestinian graduates will go on to form a corps of moderate, well-trained professionals who can go on to found or staff governmental and nongovernmental agencies in education, civil society, development and social services. This would be the most broad-based program of civil-society-building ever undertaken within Palestinian areas, and I truly believe that it is a necessary and concrete step toward peace in the Middle East.

Interns for Peace is seeking an earmark of \$2.1 million from the U.S. Congress in fiscal year 2002 to implement this program. This training program builds on decades of Interns for Peace knowledge and the Interns for Peace proven record of success.

I believe it is critical to peace, and I ask that you consider including funding specifically for this program, for

Interns for Peace to truly establish the infrastructure for peace to the Middle East.

Thank you.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Dr. Cohen. We appreciate what you are doing, and the fact you have taken the time to come up and share this with us. It is going to be very helpful to us.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Mr. Worthington.

Barry Worthington, U.S. Energy Association, welcome. Thank you for coming.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

UNITED STATES ENERGY ASSOCIATION

WITNESS

BARRY WORTHINGTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES ENERGY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Worthington. Thank you, sir. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

The U.S. Energy Association is a voluntary association of 165 energy-related organizations. And today, I would like to talk you about the importance of energy in sustaining economic growth in developing countries and also the financial contributions that are being provided to do so by the U.S. energy sector.

Just as in California, energy supply shortages, unusually high prices and unreliable service are severe impediments to economic growth. The demand for energy in developing countries is increasing faster than production, and this is jeopardizing the continued growth and stability of these nations and presenting threats to democracy and social stability.

Worldwide, 2 billion people lack access to energy. Hospitals cannot refrigerate vaccines, schools cannot provide adequate lighting, clean water systems cannot function without energy. Lacking an adequate energy infrastructure, it is likely that unemployment, illiteracy, spread of infectious disease, environmental degradation and the cycle of poverty in developing countries will continue unabated.

The potential for civil unrest fueled by energy poverty in developing countries poses an increasingly significant geopolitical risk to the security of the United States and to its allies. Energy security is critical to national security. The Gulf War, current tensions over petroleum resources in the South China Sea and public demonstrations over power blackouts are examples of conflicts and civil unrest spawned by insufficient energy resources.

You know, Russia is now using energy exports as a political weapon in dealing with Ukraine, with Armenia and the Republic of Georgia. Energy-related political issues continue to brew in the Caspian region and now are affecting our NATO ally Turkey. In countries as diverse as Nigeria, India and Mexico, energy issues present both opportunities and also threats to U.S. interests.

Global trade and investment in energy provides jobs in the United States as well as in developing countries. We believe that the U.S. energy industry has much to offer in the form of efficient and clean energy technologies, systems and services to developing countries.

Leveraging the U.S. energy sector resources, the U.S. Energy Association began the volunteer Energy Partnership Program in 1990 with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development. This Energy Partnership Program matches U.S. energy companies, regulatory agencies and industry associations with counterparts in USAID-assisted countries.

We started with a modest three programs in 1990 and have spread now to over 80 energy and regulatory partnerships in more than 30 countries. Over 8,000 utility and regulatory executives have participated pro bono, volunteering their time and effort in our partnership activities.

The U.S. energy companies and organizations have freely volunteered over \$50 million of time and expertise of senior executives. And this actually represents \$1 of private sector voluntary contributions for every \$1 of U.S. Government funding that goes into these energy cooperation programs.

Since its inception, over 50 organizations and 21 regulatory commissions have participated in over 30 states and the District of Columbia. And I might add, nearly all of the electric utilities in the State of New York have been participants in this program and Tucson Electric Power has been a very strong participant in hosting countless delegations in Arizona.

The purpose of these partnerships is to promote the efficient, environmentally sound supply and use of energy by transferring commercially viable, market-oriented approaches to overseas utilities. These partnerships help enhance opportunities for U.S. investments and trade in international energy markets.

Our partnerships have achieved numerous results of

tremendous value to the U.S. taxpayer, when you have \$1 of private sector funding matching \$1 of government funding.

All of that is in our written testimony, so I will not go over it now. But let me conclude, simply, by recommending that energy really needs to be a cornerstone of U.S. development and trade assistance policy. We recommend that the U.S. Government expand the funding of energy-related assistance programs with USAID.

And we urge consideration be given to expanding those types of programs and activities where the U.S. private sector is contributing on a pro bono basis, \$1 for \$1, leveraging U.S. Government funding. None of these organizations would spend their own time and their money if they did not think it was worthwhile.

Further, we really need to have energy-related economic assistance plan coordinated, almost a Marshall-Plan-like concept for energy. Such an approach needs to be cohesive and consistent to facilitate U.S. exports and strengthen the institutional components of a civil society. An energy Marshall Plan can help reestablish U.S. leadership in the energy sector.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I will conclude my remarks. And thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to testify.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Worthington.

You know, I have met some of the people in Tucson. I did not realize it was through this association. I appreciate the work that you are doing.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Worthington. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Kolbe. Dr. Bruce Spivey from Helen Keller Worldwide.

Dr. Spivey, welcome and thank you very much.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

HELEN KELLER WORLDWIDE

WITNESS

DR. BRUCE SPIVEY

Dr. Spivey. Mr. Chairman, Congresswoman Lowey.

I am Bruce Spivey. I am here on behalf of Helen Keller Worldwide and the millions of people we serve. I am a volunteer member of that board, and I have spent most of my professional life promoting eye health as an ophthalmologist, a professor of ophthalmology and as a leader of national and international ophthalmological organizations.

Helen Keller Worldwide, or HKW, is the leading U.S.-based private voluntary organization dedicated to blindness prevention and to improving survival, health and productivity of vulnerable populations.

Founded in 1915 with the help of deaf-blind crusader Helen Keller herself, we currently operate in 29 countries, Africa, Asia and the Americas.

I would like to begin by thanking you for the past assistance. Your help has allowed us to reach millions of people around the world.

As much as we have done, the need is still great. According to the World Health Organization, 1.5 million children are blind and 7 million children suffer from low vision. Vitamin A deficiency and congenital cataracts are primarily to blame.

I was recently in Mexico to evaluate Helen Keller's child blindness program. And I was particularly gratified to see, firsthand, the success of these programs. They have brought

hope where, before, none existed.

I would like to tell you very briefly about a young child, Javier, who is now eight. When he was a year old, Javier began bumping into things in his living room, could not walk to the side, had to walk straight ahead slowly, sought objects by sound, not sight. And he was taken to several programs in Mexico and told that he could not have eye surgery, having had congenital cataracts before he was age 14.

Fortunately, our program was able to provide, in five months, cataract surgery at the Louis Sanchez Bulnes Hospital in Mexico City, which is our partner in this program.

Following up, as we do with every operated child, this young man now is in school, performing well and loves jigsaw puzzles. He could not even get around in his living room, previously, so we feel very, very pleased with this example.

Congenital cataract is a major cause of treatable childhood blindness, and it affects over 350,000 children every year. Since 1993, we have addressed this problem by bringing cataract surgery to afflicted children throughout the world. We have programs in Bangladesh, Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and South Africa.

Now, to switch a bit, statistics show that, globally, 250 million children of preschool age do not have enough vitamin A in their diet. The consequences of vitamin A deficiency are dire: 350,000 of these 250 million children will go blind, and 2 million will die.

Addressing vitamin A deficiency is Helen Keller's largest and most successful endeavor. Interventions through supplementation, proper food consumption and food fortification not only help to prevent unnecessary blindness but prevent loss of life. This is rampant, particularly with children with a lack of vitamin A.

The simple distribution of vitamin A capsules--is one of the most effective and widespread interventions. Last fiscal year alone, HKW was involved directly and indirectly in the distribution of capsules to over 60.5 million children across the globe. Supplementation is the most cost-effective public health treatment available, amounting to just 50 cents per child per year.

Not only do we want to help avoid preventable blindness, we want to enable people to help themselves as well. Because we work closely with local health authorities and nongovernmental organizations, we know our programs can achieve sustainability, and a number have already done so.

For example, in most of the countries where we operate, vitamin A programs have already seen government incorporate their capsule distribution into national immunization days or national micronutrient days. When this happens, we continue our work by providing technical assistance and training.

The success we, at Helen Keller Worldwide, have witnessed is indeed encouraging.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that we can count on the subcommittee to renew its support for these very important programs. Specifically, we ask that you include language in your report recommending at least \$1.5 million for the program for blind children and \$30 million for micronutrients, including increased funding for vitamin A programs.

Again, we thank you for the subcommittee's past support and your leadership in this area.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.127

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.128

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.138

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Dr. Spivey. We really appreciate the wonderful work the Helen Keller Worldwide group does.

Dr. Spivey. Thank you very, very much. Remember those capsules. [Laughter.]

We have more.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

We will next hear from Dr. Herbert Pigman of Rotary International.

Mr. Pigman. I am not a doctor yet, but----

Mr. Kolbe. Oh, did I say doctor? I am sorry. We will make you an honorary doctor for today.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

WITNESS

HERBERT A. PIGMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL POLIOPLUS COMMITTEE, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Mr. Pigman. Thank you.

Chairman Kolbe and Congresswoman Lowey, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

Thirteen years ago, the World Health Organization, United States and other member nations resolved to eradicate polio, which is the world's greatest cause of disability. And since that time, the war on polio has enlisted many, many partners.

And it has now become the world's largest, and I dare say, the most successful public-private health initiative.

The U.S. agency for development has played, and is playing, a vital role in this remarkable program. We hope to see the last case of polio on this planet within the next 24 months.

We are in the homestretch of the race to reach the last child, and victory will depend on overcoming several challenges. Chief among these are sustaining the political commitment in the face of a disappearing disease, continuing to gain access to children in countries with civil conflict and, finally, timely financial support to the 20 remaining countries where the polio virus still circulates.

So as I appear before you today to thank your committee, Mr. Chairman, for the support it has specifically provided to fuel USAID's role in the global partnership and to express the hope that your committee will support with financial support unabated in fiscal year 2002.

To briefly report on the progress, the number of cases, which were estimated at 350,000 in 1988, has reduced to 2,817 as of five days ago; for the year 2000, a 99 percent reduction. The entire Western Pacific is now polio-free, as is the Western Hemisphere. There has been no case of polio in the 52 countries of Europe in the last two years. And all countries have held national immunization day programs, a strategy that has proven to work in countries even with civil conflict and with severe obstacles of a weak infrastructure.

I am very pleased to say that this program also supports vitamin A distribution, as Dr. Spivey mentioned. Vitamin A distribution became part of 60 national immunization days last year.

If I may share with you the progress in India, Mr. Chairman and Congresswoman. India traditionally has been the reservoir of half of the polio cases in the world. And you can see the progress in the last three years. These are virologically determined cases reducing from 1998, almost 2,000 cases, to 256 last year with the transmission occurring up there in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, chiefly.

Specifically, Mr. Chairman, we are requesting \$30 million in USAID support for 2002, in addition to the normal USAID resources devoted to the regular immunization programs.

The benefits of polio eradication, in addition to the humanitarian aspect, \$1.5 billion savings when it no longer becomes necessary to immunize children against polio. For the U.S., the savings will be \$230 million per year. There is a wonderful, accredited lab network now. There is, developing, a culture of prevention.

The United States, Mr. Chairman, has been the global leader in funding this program, having provided \$540 million in the last six years. Rotary Group, whom I represent as a volunteer, has committed itself to \$500 million and has already deployed \$409 million toward this program.

Despite this funding and the generous support of many partners, we have a funding gap at the present time of \$450 million through the year 2005, the final five years of this 20-year battle against polio.

So, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to bring this good news to you and with the hope that your committee can

again support United States leadership in this great global venture.

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.139

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Pigman.

Thank you for what Rotary does as well. It is really heartwarming and inspiring.

Bo Shafer, Kiwanis.

Mr. Shafer, welcome.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

WITNESS

BO SHAFER, PRESIDENT, KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Mr. Shafer. Bo Shafer, I am lucky enough to be president of Kiwanis International. We are a volunteer organization, and I aim to congratulate you folks for being on this wonderful committee.

Mr. Kolbe. And I can tell that you do not come from Mrs. Lowey's part of the country. [Laughter.]

Mr. Shafer. I hope you can understand me, because the only language I speak is Tennessee. I know that you folks talk a little bit funny, but all I can do is what I can do. [Laughter.]

Mrs. Lowey. Well, we appreciate it. You do important work.

Mr. Shafer. But we have worked real closely with this committee for four years. And our project is eliminating iodine deficiency around the world. We have joined together with UNICEF as our partner, and we partnered with USAID and the

United States Government, of course, which is us. And we have really made some big things happen.

All we need is one teaspoon of iodine in a lifetime, and it is a totally preventable cause of mental retardation. So that is the project we are working on. And we just want to thank you for working with us. And we have made a huge, huge step in eliminating this terrible scourge around the world.

So on behalf of our 6,200 clubs in the United States alone, thank you so much for helping us make a huge difference in the world.

I was in New Zealand not too long ago, and a doctor was speaking about it. She worked with IDD, iodine deficiency disorder, and she was telling me about a boy who was named Friday. He was about this tall, about 3, maybe 4 feet tall. He was wearing overalls and had a big smile on his face. He was cretin. Cretin is the worse thing that can happen to anybody who does not get any iodine. He could hardly walk, hardly talk, barely existed.

But they said, in this country, they said, this child was really lucky because when people had a child who was born cretin, they would just throw him right down on the street and let him die.

But somebody had taken this boy in, but they had taken him in as an animal. He lived in the barn. They fed him with the cows and the sheep and the horses. And all he did was lay low. But they said he was lucky.

So this is one of the things that we are trying to prevent. When we started this project, there were 1.5 billion children in the world who were affected by iodine deficiency disorder in 115 countries. Whole populations' IQ can drop 15 percent just by not getting any iodine.

And we are not hunting. We are not doing any research. We know the cure: putting iodine in all the salt of the world. And that is our project. We are raising \$75 million to do that. The solution is to get iodine in the salt. And that is what we are doing. We are raising \$75 million to do that.

I have some maps I would like to show you. This first map is the countries that were affected with iodine deficiency when we first started. All the red countries did not have any iodine in their soil. It comes from the soil, but it gets leached out. And of course, we put it in salt. The United States had the problem years ago. We took care of it by putting iodine in salt.

The next map shows what, of those 1.5 billion people, what iodine deficiency has caused: cretinism is 11 million; brain damage, 43 million; goiters, 750 million. And a total of 1.6 billion, which is a third of the world, is affected by this.

This next map shows the countries that we are working with right now. We have already given \$40 million, and a lot of our money is in pledges. And we are working with 82 countries at this particular time. We are making huge progress.

The next one shows the progress that we have made in each one of these countries. The green is, over 90 percent of the people are getting iodine. The yellow is, 50 percent to 89 percent are getting enough iodine. The red is, 50 percent or less are getting enough iodine. If it is white, we do not have any data.

What we want to do is, next time we come, we want to show you the red, and we want it all to be green. And so that is our goal.

We are at \$68 million in in fund raising now. We think it is not only a humane effort, we think it is a really good investment.

And I have walked with, I have talked to, I have seen, and I have smelled absolute and total poverty. And I mean, most of it, in the places I have been, is because they do not get any iodine. So we think it is not only a humane effort, but it is an investment for our country to help these folks help themselves.

We would like to ask you to do three things.

One is to continue helping us educate the American people that this is a problem around the world.

The next thing we would like you to do is support our partner, who we have really had a great experience with, UNICEF. They are asking for \$120 million, and we would like for you to agree to help those folks have their money provided.

And then, what we would like is to get \$2.5 million. If we could get \$2.5 million, we are getting close; we are going to reach our goal to virtually eliminate this awful scourge.

And that is what we would like you to do. We are trying to plant a seed for a tree that we will not only get the shade of, but the whole world will.

We want to thank you for your cooperation and for your compassion and caring for others. And that is what we want.

Thank you very much.

[The information follows:]

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.152

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you, Mr. Shafer.

Mrs. Lowey. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. And once again, let me say, it is really inspiring to me, as a member, to see organizations like Kiwanis, Rotary and the other organizations like that, that are just on their own, picking up for these programs around the world. It really is inspiring. And your members have also given me something every time I speak to a Kiwanis club, to talk

about the work that you people are doing here.

Mr. Shafer. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

We have a lot of folks out there with the right heart.

Mr. Kolbe. You sure do.

Mr. Shafer. They want to make a difference in this world for another.

Mr. Kolbe. A lot of good people in the Kiwanis, and I love talking to them.

Mrs. Lowey. Even in New York.

Mr. Shafer. We have plenty of them in New York.

Next time I see you, I want you all to be wearing a Kiwanis pin. [Laughter.]

Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. John Salzberg.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

WITNESS

JOHN P. SALZBERG, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Mr. Salzberg. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much for coming.

Mr. Salzberg. I appreciate this chance to talk with you. I would like to tell you how it is in the United States national interest to support treatment programs for victims of torture. Actually, in 1998, Congress adopted the Torture Victims Relief Act. In adopting this legislation, Congress recognized that torture is one of the most effective weapons against democracy.

Repressive governments target human rights and democracy advocates. They instill fear in those who seek democratic change. And that is the purpose of torture.

The Torture Victims Relief Act authorized supporting treatment programs for victims of torture. These programs enable torture victims to recover their lives and, in many cases, resume their advocacy for democracy and human rights. Thus, support for torture treatment programs is not only a valid humanitarian initiative in keeping with the finest American traditions, it also a valid strategic political objective.

Health providers enable democracy leaders to recover their lives, continue their struggle for democracy and civil and political rights. They also provide professional data on the practice of torture, and, thereby, become the force for civil society to advance democracy and human rights.

The Torture Victims Relief Act authorized three categories of support, two of which are under the domain of this subcommittee. It authorized support for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and authorized AID to support foreign treatment programs for victims of torture.

This subcommittee has been responsive, providing financial support for these programs, both under Democratic and Republican majorities. It is my hope this will continue in the

present Congress. The Subcommittee for the Department of Health and Human Services has also appropriated funding for the third category of assistance, support for U.S. treatment programs for victims residing in this country.

In 1982, the United Nations General Assembly established the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. In the year 2000, this fund assisted more than 100 programs in more than 50 countries with grants totalling over \$7 million.

The fund's dispersal and modest grants to nongovernmental programs in these countries provides essential financial as well as political support for these programs. The fund also assists programs in countries where the victims have taken refuge.

The United States is a good example. Many of the 23 programs in the United States are recipients of grants from the UN fund, including, I might add, the Bellevue Hospital Fund Center project as well as the one in Queens, New York. I am sure there must be one in Arizona. I will have to do the research on that.

For all these reasons, we ask the Committee on Appropriations to recommend in its report that \$5 million be contributed to the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. This is the amount authorized in the Torture Victims Relief Act for fiscal year 2002.

We also ask that your report urge the Department of State to encourage other governments to increase their contribution to the fund to report on these activities and results thereon by February 15, 2002.

Now, there are well over 200 torture treatment programs in the world. The UN fund is unlikely ever to provide sufficient funding for all of these programs. For this reason, the Torture Victims Relief Act authorized AID to support foreign treatment centers for victims of torture. And since 1992, the House Committee on Appropriations and this subcommittee has recommended to AID that it support foreign treatment programs.

Last year, AID announced, for the first time, a two-year award of \$1.5 million to support capacity-building programs for the foreign treatment centers with a focus on training and technical assistance. This was a very important precedent for which AID should be complimented.

And our center, the Center for Victims of Torture, which is based in Minneapolis, was pleased to receive this grant, because we believe that training and technical assistance is important. However, we were disappointed that more funding was not available for direct budgetary support for the centers' treatment services. Many of these centers are strapped financially and are operating under difficult political conditions.

Last year's committee report reflects this opinion as well. The committee recommended that AID devote \$10 million to support foreign treatment centers for victims of torture and that these funds be used primarily for direct treatment services for victims of torture.

So Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lowey, I would recommend the committee reiterate the recommendations contained in last year's report for torture victims and, in fact, authorize this \$10 million to support foreign treatment centers in 2002. And

we suggest the committee recommend that amount and that a major portion of these funds be in the form of direct financial support for these programs. And we would further recommend the committee request a report from AID on the implementation of this recommendation by February 15, 2002.

I might add that AID has not yet submitted its report for this year.

[The information follows:]

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.162

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.163

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.165

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

Mr. Salzberg, would you, for the record, provide any information you have about the treatment of tortured and physically abused workers on commercial farms in Zimbabwe? Anything you can provide for this committee would be very helpful.

Mr. Salzberg. I have a sense we can. We do have a sister organization in Zimbabwe.

Mr. Kolbe. We would appreciate any information you have about that.

Mr. Salzberg. And you were saying, what was that? Maybe I will check with you.

Mr. Kolbe. We will give you the information.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Salzberg. Sure.

Mr. Kolbe. Next is Kathryn Wolford, Faith Action for People-Centered Development Policy. Welcome.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

FAITH ACTION FOR PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT POLICY

WITNESS

KATHRYN WOLFORD

Ms. Wolford. Thank you.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Mrs. Lowey.

It is a pleasure to be here. It is a pleasure to be here. My name is Kathryn Wolford, and I am the president of Lutheran World Relief. And I speak today on behalf of Faith Action for People-Centered Development Policy. We are a group of Protestant and Catholic religious and faith-based organizations who advocate for policies to promote peace, justice and the reduction of poverty worldwide.

A new millennium is upon us. As people of faith and in Biblical spirit, we are calling for that jubilee spirit to provide a fresh start for people living in hunger and poverty

around the globe, our faith compels us to also bring that word of advocacy to see that those values are reflected in U.S. foreign policy and foreign assistance.

As a prosperous and a powerful nation, we think that the U.S. has both the opportunity and the responsibility to assist impoverished people to reduce poverty and to achieve sustainable development. We are concerned with many trends in U.S. foreign assistance, including the disproportionate amount that is often provided for military assistance rather than for humanitarian purposes.

We believe these trends run counter to public opinion. And I would note recent polls by the Center for the Study of Policy Attitudes, which affirm that the majority of Americans actually support effective aid destined for the world's poorest people.

It is our request that you consider doubling the funding that our government provides for humanitarian and sustainable development programs. And we believe the increase should be dedicated toward eliminating obstacles to those who struggle to put daily bread on the table in many countries across the globe.

Specifically, we are urging more resources in a couple of areas.

One is HIV/AIDS and other global health concerns. Worldwide preventable health catastrophes, including HIV/AIDS, are taking a toll. And I will not go through the statistics; I know you are aware of them. It is also undermining national societies and economies. The U.S. should invest several billion dollars annually on global health issues, helping to take a leadership role in halting this tragic loss of lives around the world. It is the right thing to do. We are capable of doing it. And we look to Congress to provide leadership on that issue.

Debt relief for impoverished countries. Our churches and organizations have been at the forefront of the Jubilee 2000 movement to cancel the crushing debts of the poorest countries of the world. We appreciate the tremendous support that Congress has provided for this initiative. And now we are asking you to, again, fully authorize existing debt relief programs and encourage you to consider expanding these important programs.

A third area is education and with particular emphasis on education for the girl child. Literacy and primary education are the cornerstones of development and economic growth in any country. And yet 125 million primary school children, many of them girls, are not in school today. We ask the U.S. to double funding for international education to \$300 million for countries who are making a commitment to achieve universal primary education and, at the same time, to increase U.S. funding for UNICEF.

A fourth area of concern is migration and refugee needs. Responding to the needs of immigrants and refugees has always been a primary concern for Christian humanitarian organizations in this country. And despite, we think, our valiant efforts supported by the American public to address these concerns at home and abroad, the needs are still tremendous. We ask the migration and refugee assistance account be increased to \$817 million, which would simply restore the account to its 1995 level, adjusted for inflation. And we would also ask that the emergency refugee and migration assistance account be

supplemented with a \$50 million appropriation.

Finally, in terms of areas, we are most interested in sustainable development, and that is impossible in regions torn apart by conflict and internal strife. Funding that you can provide for conflict resolution, peacekeeping and de-mining efforts at the highest possible levels are called for in today's world. We support renewed congressional efforts to call on our President to join the treaty to ban landmines and to quickly bring the U.S. into full compliance. At the same time, funding for programs for the treatment of landmine survivors and for the rehabilitation of child soldiers worldwide is very important to our faith-based community.

That runs through several of the areas that are covered in more depth in our written testimony. But we would also like to just highlight several regional concerns for the budget and to bring those to attention from our coalition.

We would urge you to provide at least an additional \$1 billion above and beyond current levels to poverty-focused development assistance in sub-Sahara Africa. Global levels of official development assistance to Africa have fallen 29 percent in the last decade alone, a trend that we believe must be reversed not only for the people of Africa, but for global security in its broadest sense. Funding for this region must be sufficient to fully implement a critical array of programs for Africa, and many of our constituents have a particular emphasis in this area.

We call on Congress to support economic and humanitarian assistance to Indonesia. But we urge you not to provide military aid or training for security forces that are actually contributing to oppression and the inability to overcome poverty in that area.

We urge Congress to ensure continued food aid for North Korea, something many of our agencies have been directly involved in.

We urge you to support additional funding for reconstruction in El Salvador and not at the expense of or taking it away from other existing accounts.

And we urge you to reshape Plan Colombia. I have just returned from Colombia. I have heard from democratically elected officials as well as nongovernmental humanitarian organizations that the emphasis on military aid in Plan Colombia is undermining the peace process, the defense of human rights and the prospects for peace and sustainable development.

And finally, we would urge that economic aid to the Palestinian population be continued and increased and funding to the region to support and not undermine the fragile peace process.

We ask that you, as members of Congress, bring your vision and leadership to the kinds of issues that we have raised out of our faith perspective and our experience as humanitarian organizations. We hope that you will share these concerns and include them in your priorities.

And we thank you very much for your time today.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.166

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.167

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Ms. Wolford.

We appreciate the extensive statement that you have, which we will put in the record.

Thank you very much for joining us today.

Ms. Wolford. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Now, we have been joined by Mr. Lewis, an outstanding member of this subcommittee.

Mr. Lewis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kolbe. Yes, and next we have Father Headley, U.S. Catholic Conference, Migration and Refugee Services and Catholic Relief Services.

Welcome.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES/CATHOLIC RELIEF
SERVICES

WITNESS

FATHER WILLIAM HEADLEY

Father Headley. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, I am Father Bill Headley, deputy executive director of Catholic Relief Services.

As you probably know from our long association with this subcommittee, CRS is the international development agency of the U.S. Catholic Bishops dedicated to serving the poor, providing food and other assistance in over 80 countries for the past 57 years.

I am here today representing CRS but also the offices of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference for International Justice and Peace, Migration, Refugee Services.

Due to the shortness of time, my oral testimony today will simply highlight two topics from our detailed written testimony that has already been submitted and I see is before you.

First, on foreign aid generally, Mr. Chairman and committee members, the start of a new Congress and a new administration presents us with a fresh opportunity to begin a serious dialogue about reshaping our country's foreign assistance programs and policies. The Catholic Bishops come here today seeking substantially more aid, more focused on global poverty reduction and more effective in reaching the poor.

During an unprecedented period of economic growth, U.S. foreign aid as a percentage of GNP fell to the lowest of all donor countries. Our country has also failed to give adequate attention to the regions suffering from the most severe poverty in the world, sub-Saharan Africa.

The United States is now nearly last among donor countries in the allocation of its development assistance to this region. The human cost and moral consequences are staggering: 300 million Africans live on barely \$.65 a day; 15 percent of African children die before the age of five.

Mr. Chairman, let us not leave only crumbs from our tables. We believe that our nation has a moral obligation to be in solidarity with our poorest brothers and sisters around the world. To bring U.S. assistance to sub-Saharan Africa just above the bottom third of donors, an additional \$1 billion should be dedicated to poverty reduction and education in that region.

We also urge an additional \$1 billion for global health. Disease threatens to kill more than one-quarter of the populations in the hardest-hit African countries in the next 20 years. \$1 billion is the U.S. share of the estimated minimum increase per year needed to stem HIV/AIDS.

With that relief, Mr. Chairman and committee members, we thank this subcommittee for its leadership in approving full funding last year. We ask that full funding be continued for fiscal year 2002 by an appropriation of \$240 million to fulfill the Cologne Accord.

My last point on poverty reduction programs, Mr. Chairman, is to address the needs of improved delivery of aid with the participation of faith-based groups.

Based on our field experience in those 80 countries that we serve in, we believe that aid delivery is impeded by earmarking of funds, programmatic inflexibility, the tied-aid policy and micromanagement. Our written testimony describes ways to overcome these problems, including multiyear and multi-culti grants and the flexible programs focused through specific policy commitments, but without undue reliance on earmarking.

The second topic is refugee protection. Mr. Chairman, through our Department of Migration and Refugee Services, the Catholic bishops resettle close to a third of the refugees who come into the United States each year. Last year we helped 18,000 refugees, representing 94 ethnicities and 50 different nationalities.

We thank the subcommittee for its work last year on refugee

protection issues, specifically, the increase of \$42 million above the administration's budget request. The \$700 million approved for the migration and refugees' assistance account reversed a disturbing trend of funding reductions.

However, given increasing refugee flows, the MRA budget remains inadequate, so the need for increased funding continues this year.

Mr. Chairman, we recommend that at least \$800 million for MRA and \$50 million for the emergency refugee and migration account. This funding is needed to respond adequately to the refugee crisis in Guinea, the scores of Afghan women and children fleeing to Pakistan from the Taliban government, and refugee situations in Thailand, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and the Great Lakes regions of Africa and elsewhere. The \$50 million for ERMA would help replenish funds drawn from that account during the last year to address crises in Congo, the Middle East and Guinea.

Mr. Chairman, other refugee protection issues are detailed in our written testimony, such as opposition to language to prevent the State Department from disbursing funds to UNHCR without congressional notification, and support for an increase in the reception and placement grant used to resettle refugees in the U.S. each year.

We thank you very much for your attention, not only to my comments, but also to our interventions.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Father Headley.

Everyplace I go, I am very impressed with the work the Catholic Relief Services does, not only domestically, but around the world. It is a wonderful organization.

Father Headley. Thank you very much, Mr. Kolbe.

Mrs. Lowey. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. Mr. Wallace Mlyniec of the American Bar Association.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

WITNESS

WALLACE J. MLYNIEC

Mr. Mlyniec. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all the members of the committee. Good afternoon.

My name is Wallace Mlyniec. I am a professor of law and associate dean at Georgetown University and a member of the American Bar Association.

Through my affiliation with the ABA, I became aware of an exciting international partnership with the United Nations Development Program to promote democracy and the rule of law worldwide. The partnership is called the ABA-UNDP Legal Resource Unit, and I am pleased to now serve as a member of the advisory committee of the LRU. I am here today to provide testimony to this partnership as an example of the sound democratic governance strengthening efforts of the UNDP worldwide.

The LRU was established in December of 1999, based upon the common commitment and interest of the American Bar Association and the United Nations Development Program to support and promote democratic governance and the rule of law around the world. The fit between the two organizations is a win-win fit because we are able to leverage a much greater support through this partnership than either organization could have done alone.

Housed within the ABA section of the International Law and Practice Committee, the LRU takes requests from the UNDP country offices both from national headquarters and international headquarters to identify legal experts who can fulfill the requirements of UNDP democratic and legal assistance projects worldwide.

These experts usually provide their services pro bono through the ABA as a contribution to the LRU and its

objectives. The UNDP, for its part, provides resources for matching funds for expenses related to travel and other incidentals.

The LRU is a product of close collaboration between the personnel of the two institutions. Led by a joint Steering Committee composed of senior members of both organizations and supported by a network of advisory committee members like myself, consisting of lawyers and development specialists in the private practice, government and academia from different parts of the world.

Serving as an adviser, facilitator and a catalyst, the LRU strives to bring together competent and committed lawyers worldwide to contribute to UNDP-supported democratic governance and legal reform programs. Because the LRU-recommended lawyers are willing to work pro bono, the UNDP is able to leverage its funding and maintain the high quality of membership.

Last year, UNDP devoted approximately half of all its program funds to promoting good governance, democratization and the rule of law. I would like to give you just briefly three examples of the work that we have been doing in over 20 countries this year.

In Armenia, the advisory committee, the LRU, provided advisory services to develop programs to improve the accountability of parliamentary procedures and transparency of those procedures. We helped develop these kinds of legislative programs in over 46 other countries.

In Bangladesh, we assisted in identifying and recruiting human rights specialists to complement the LRU's ongoing democratic position efforts with electoral, judicial, legislative and civil society institutions.

In East Timor, we recruited legal specialists in the field of election law to support UNDP programs to educate their institutions on comparative election law and to provide training on civic education.

These are just a small example of the work that we are doing. In light of this work in this crucial area of democratic governance, as illustrated by our partnership with the UNDP, the ABA strongly believes that the UNDP is worthy of the committee's support as you proceed with your fiscal year appropriation.

Thank you for giving the ABA the opportunity to speak today. I appreciate your time, and I thank you very much.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Mlyniec. I appreciate your being here today.

Mary McClymont of InterAction. Your entire statement will be in the record.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

INTERACTION: AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION

WITNESS

MARY McCLYMONT

Ms. McClymont. Very well. Thank you.

I represent InterAction, which is, of course, an organization of 150 private voluntary organizations, which are engaged in international relief and humanitarian development.

These organizations, I think, share the view of the subcommittee that we need the world to be a better place to live in, and we would like to try to help to do that in an effective and responsible way. I offer brief remarks today and hope that my testimony will spell out in greater detail the areas I would like to speak about.

Foreign assistance, of course, supports our values, promotes our prosperity and enhances our security. The American people recognize this and increasingly support humanitarian and development assistance, and that need is considerable and great in a world that is wracked by natural and humanmade disasters, as well as by pervasive poverty that really is a breeding ground for those potential disasters and suffering.

Development assistance, which is geared to long-term poverty reduction, may be the most important investment we can make. Every dollar invested there helps stave off and remove the sources of conflict that can develop in tragic and costly disasters down the road.

In light of this need, we are pleased that the administration's request for Foreign Operations does build on last year's level of commitment. It established then a higher baseline for funding in these areas and that was in large measure, of course, due to the work of the subcommittee.

Still the request for humanitarian development assistance and other Foreign Operations accounts this year is essentially flat. That is why this year we at InterAction, with our members, look forward to working with you and with the administration to make the case and build a constituency that we need to have to increase all of these levels in the Foreign Operations account and the international affairs account more broadly, get the money up to where we need to be for humanitarian relief and development assistance.

Money, of course, is only a part of the story. It is essential that we also make sure that money is spent in the right way and in the right places. Therefore, I want to tell you that I came to my position at InterAction only three months ago. I am new. But I had spoken to many individuals and very definitely many agree that there is need for real improvement in the delivery of foreign assistance programming.

I have heard about obstacles, failures, successes. And I, like many, share the perception that there is room for trying to make improvements to get the money to where it needs to be. I, therefore, hope we at InterAction can work with you and your colleagues as closely on the ``how'' of foreign aid, as on the ``how much'' of foreign aid.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to budget recommendations that we have made in our testimony. When the full budget information is out, I presume next week, we can try to provide more detail. But in the meanwhile, let me highlight four areas that we have noted as we begin our conversations.

First, child survival and infectious disease. We welcome the requested \$50 million increase for this account. Yet, to keep pace, we think a good benchmark might be a rate of growth of 30 percent.

Mr. Lewis [presiding]. My apologies.

Ms. McClymont. That is all right. I was highlighting the budget recommendations that we have in our testimony.

First, for child survival and disease, we do welcome the request of \$50 million for an increase in that account. Yet to keep pace, we believe that the benchmark really should be lifted up to perhaps the rate of growth of last year, which was about 30 percent, I think, in order to continue these vital programs that are in great demand.

Secondly, the other subaccount we would like to draw attention to is development assistance. Although we note that there is approximately a 2 percent increase, as we understand that from the information we have, this level, too, needs to be higher, simply given that these programs are perhaps our most important and effective tool for poverty reduction, so that if we pay now, perhaps we can avoid paying later.

Disaster assistance. We welcome the proposed increase over last year's baseline, and we do thank the subcommittee for its role in bringing forward supplementals last year. Yet, we believe the supplemental funding forces very excruciating choices and impedes the ability of PVOs to provide assistance when it is needed. We would draw your attention to the Democratic Republic of the Congo where that circumstance seems to be at play.

Finally, the migration and refugee assistance account, also a very pressing need. You have heard others testify and we share that position that because of the continuing demand, we would urge a level of \$800 million for that account, as well as \$50 million for the emergency refugee migration account.

So in the end, we very much appreciate the hard choices that this subcommittee must make. We are very committed to working closely with you to try to build support for this budget and for future budgets for those constituencies that we need and also to work with you on the ``how'' of foreign aid and getting the job done in a better way.

So thank you very much for your time.

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Mr. Kolbe [presiding]. Thank you very much. It is very encouraging to hear from an organization that also talks about the ``how'' we do the services and I was impressed by the statement about the making sure our diplomats are well trained and equipped.

Ms. McClymont. Absolutely.

Mr. Kolbe. Sometimes we forget that that is an important part of delivering these services. Thank you very much.

Ms. McClymont. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kolbe. I appreciate it, Ms. McClymont.

Mark Kane, Global Fund for Children's Vaccines.

Mark, welcome.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

THE GLOBAL FUND FOR CHILDREN'S VACCINES

WITNESS

MARK KANE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, GLOBAL FUND FOR CHILDREN'S VACCINES

Mr. Kane. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, more than 3 million children die each year from diseases easily preventable with existing vaccines. Yet, more than 30 million children born annually, one in four, do not receive any immunizations. This results in the death of about 8,000 children every day. This is a terrible tragedy, since childhood immunization is the most effective and cost-effective health intervention that medicine has to offer mankind.

I want to thank this committee for recommending last year that \$50 million be provided to the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines. This was a major step in saving the lives of children.

Challenged by a \$750 million donation from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, the world has been given an opportunity to close the gap between children who now have access to immunization and those who do not. A public-private partnership has been formed over the past 18 months to address

the increased need for childhood immunizations.

Leaders from UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, the pharmaceutical industry, governments and the Gates Foundation have joined forces to create the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, and the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines has been established to quickly channel resources where they are most needed.

Imagine, just 25 years ago only 5 percent of the world's children were immunized. By the 1990s, thanks to the boost in worldwide donor interest generated by the World Summit for Children, immunization rates rose to almost 80 percent. Because of this progress, more than 3 million children's lives are saved each year. We can double that and we do it in the next few years.

On the other hand, we have seen what happens when there is a fall in resources. Immunization rates in many of the poorest countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, have actually decreased over the past 10 years. The world is at risk of moving backward on the immunization effort.

The GAVI/Global Fund alliance is seeking to correct three basic gaps: an access gap as I mentioned, 25 percent of the children in the world, 30 million children, do not receive any vaccines; an equity gap as new life-saving vaccines are developed, only children in the richer countries receive them; and an investment gap, current market forces do not encourage the development of vaccines against diseases most prevalent in poorest countries, including pneumonia, diarrhea, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

The GAVI and Global Fund partnerships are designed to strengthen immunization systems and provide new and underutilized vaccines in the 74 poorest countries in the world. In a recent interview, Dr. William Foege, previous head of the Centers for Disease Control and the Carter Center said, ``I don't think I'm overstating it to say that this could be the most important thing that has happened in global health, at least in my lifetime.''

Mr. Chairman, only improved delivery of existing vaccines now will develop the infrastructure for rapid delivery of future vaccines against HIV, malaria and tuberculosis.

Over the past year, the GAVI partners have received and processed proposals to strengthen immunization programs in 47 of the 74 poorest countries. We have committed \$375 million in vaccines and financial grants to 25 developing country immunization programs. This has the potential of saving an additional 1 million children over the next five years. And we have introduced the concept of outcome-based grants; if results are not shown, the funding stops.

GAVI and the Global Fund will succeed because of support for programs on the ground in the poorest countries and because of our shift to a performance-based model for funding. No money or vaccine flows to countries until GAVI has seen a comprehensive 5-year immunization plan which is approved by an interagency coordinating committee composed of the government and the major partners in development in that country. Further funding depends on evidence of progress in protecting additional children.

The \$50 million recommended by Congress last year for a

contribution to the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines, as part of the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations appropriations bill, will help stimulate other countries and private donations. Major contributions to the Global Fund have already been received from Norway, the United Kingdom and The Netherlands.

Mr. Chairman, when Bill Gates was asked why he gave \$750 million to establish the Global Fund, he responded, ``Melinda and I are committed to ensuring that every child has access to lifesaving vaccines in the next millennium, regardless of where they live.'' I urge you to also feel this commitment.

If we are, in fact, going to meet these goals, we need continued and increased support from the United States. I hope that this committee will be able to recommend a level of funding for next year that far exceeds the \$50 million provided last year. Vaccines are our most powerful tool in the child survival revolution, and the unprecedented public-private sector partnership that has been created can fulfill the promises made a decade ago; it can close the gap between immunized and nonimmunized children, and can bring about a better life for millions of children around the world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much. And I agree, there are few programs I can think of that could make such a difference in the world than what you are doing in children's vaccinations.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Kane. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. Mr. Robert Black, Global Health Council.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL

WITNESS

ROBERT BLACK, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Mr. Black. Mr. Chairman, Congresswoman Lowey, and members of the subcommittee, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I am here on behalf of the Global Health Council, as a member of their board of directors.

The Global Health Council is the United States largest membership organization and alliance of health professionals

and organizations dedicated to improving the health around the world. On behalf of the Global Health Council's thousands of members, I commend your committee for the attention it has historically paid to the health needs of children and families in developing countries.

This new Congress and new administration can provide an opportunity for new leadership, and it is very important that this leadership be directed to the long-term dividends for the American people that can come from this funding, as well as for the people in developing countries. The investment in health can make an enormous difference in the lives of billions of people for a very small investment.

Never before have we seen so starkly the inter-relationship between the health of the poor of the world and the well-being of our own citizens. Every week we hear news about the reports of disease outbreaks and the exchange of people and goods around the world.

This globalization, as we know, is a double-edged sword. The National Intelligence Council warns us about the threat to national security caused by infectious diseases, especially AIDS. The Council on Foreign Relations highlights global health as an emerging new dimension to the foreign policy interests of the United States. And the upcoming United Nations Special Session on Children, following the special session 10 years ago, highlights the fact that, despite remarkable progress in very difficult circumstances, far too many children in developing countries still die needlessly of causes we know how to prevent and know how to treat.

Your committee is at the very center of this country's capacity to act wisely and effectively. While we spend more than \$4,000 a year on domestic health for every man, woman and child in this country, we invest just \$5 for each American in protecting health beyond our borders, and this is despite our knowledge that AIDS, tuberculosis and diseases that affect our citizens often have a very strong link with problems abroad.

So as public health professionals, we know that essential health services are a realistic possibility for those at high risk around the world and not at a very expensive cost, as in this country, but at a remarkably low \$20 per person per year.

Of course, this Congress is dealing with many pressures, for cutting taxes, for holding the line on spending. But let me clear what I am talking about.

Currently, this country invests just over one-half of one-tenth of 1 percent of our total federal budget in global health. And this part of our budget directly affects the lives of 2 billion people around the world. Where else can the American people get such a broad benefit for this investment?

The Global Health Council and our wide alliance of members call on this committee to increase our investment in this critical area by \$1 billion in fiscal year 2002, bringing the portion of our national budget dedicated to this cause up to just one-tenth of 1 percent. We ask that you appropriate this money toward the most essential aspects of health around the world, improving child health and nutrition, reducing the risk, spread and consequences of HIV and other major infectious diseases, and improving women's health by reducing unintended pregnancies and helping to assure that all pregnancies are safe

and healthy.

These fundamental health priorities are captured in the Global Health Act of 2001, introduced today in the House by Representatives Joe Crowley and Connie Morella, and to be introduced into the Senate by Senators Patrick Leahy and Jim Jeffords, along with more than 52 members of Congress and with the support of more than 153 nongovernmental organizations and public charities.

This list is growing daily, and we have provided with our written materials the list of the organizations supporting the Global Health Act. These investments would complement, and would be complemented by, investments in basic education and in poverty reduction.

Last year, Congress appropriated just over \$1.3 billion for these critical global health issues. Congress's funding increases for HIV/AIDS and infectious disease in last year were wide and welcome. Yet among health programs which did not see increases last year, we recognize those that directly affect the health and survival of children and also of women who should have the opportunity to go through pregnancy without endangering their lives or the lives of their children.

Just to finish, we have the specific request in our written materials as far as the particular funding levels that we would humbly suggest and request you would consider.

We want to stress one thing, I will just say it in closing, that this is not a request to shift funding from one part of our global health budget to another or from any other priority area. This is a request very directly to increase the funding for these very critical areas by \$1 million.

I know that you will take this seriously, and I know you have very many difficult decisions, but I thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you.

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Black.

Let me just say, since we are hearing a number of health organizations testify about global health, while I agree, certainly, about the need to do this and to make a larger commitment, there also has to be something at the other end to receive it. And if you have a government that is engaged in widespread corruption and plutocracy, then there is nothing there to deliver the system to the people, and you are not using the money effectively. And I think we need to consider that too, as we consider where we put these programs.

Mr. Black. I fully agree, sir.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Black.

We have been joined by Ms. Pelosi. Thank you very much, Ms. Pelosi, for joining us, and Mr. Knollenberg.

He is hiding right behind me here. Thank you very much.

Well, let me call the next person and I will be back shortly here. The next person we are going to hear from is Mr. Phil Hopewell, the International Union against TB and Lung Disease.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG DISEASE

WITNESS

DR. PHILIP C. HOPEWELL

Mr. Hopewell. Thank you very much, Mr. Kolbe.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you.

Mr. Hopewell. My name is Phil Hopewell. I am the director of the Francis Curry National Tuberculosis Center in San Francisco and associate dean of the School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco.

As you indicated, I am here today representing the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, a mouthful of an organization that I will refer to as the ``union'' from here on.

My mission today is really threefold. First, I would like to thank the subcommittee for its ongoing support for international tuberculosis control activities.

Second, I would like to report on what I view as truly groundbreaking tuberculosis control efforts that are under way, having been catalyzed by USAID efforts on tuberculosis control globally.

And third, to encourage the subcommittee to continue its important work that you have started with the funding that has been provided through the current fiscal year, by providing additional funding in line with what we estimate the needs to be in next fiscal year's budget.

The consistent support of this subcommittee, combined with a growing awareness of the magnitude and economic impact of tuberculosis, has led to a strong commitment to tuberculosis control activities at USAID. I am pleased to report that USAID is now playing a leadership role in developing strong tuberculosis control programs globally. I firmly believe that

USAID's attitude is a direct result of the foresight and leadership provided by this subcommittee.

Of considerable importance, USAID is now a major stakeholder in a coordinated global framework for tuberculosis control. The funding provided by USAID is serving to leverage additional funding from governments and, perhaps more importantly, from a number of private sources that support global tuberculosis control efforts.

Governments and private foundations have assumed responsibility for many aspects, but it is USAID who is really providing the leadership to ensure that each element of the plan is executed in a coordinated and efficient way.

I am pleased to report that USAID has used a significant portion of the \$60 million in the current fiscal year to provide crucial diagnostic and treatment services for patients in countries having a high instance of tuberculosis. However, more funding is needed to expand these programs. Today, only one in five patients with tuberculosis has access to effective treatment services.

One of the elements in this coordinated global plan that I have mentioned is a global drug facility. To control tuberculosis, it is crucial that there be a consistent supply of high-quality tuberculosis drugs, and I am quite pleased to report that a global drug facility has been created to provide access to TB drugs for countries that are committed to conducting effective tuberculosis-control programs. Major funding for this has come from Canada, as an example of the, sort of, leverage that the USAID funding has had and coordinated efforts that are being conducted by a number of governments.

Recently, the Institute of Medicine, here in the United States, published a report on the elimination of tuberculosis in the United States. This report emphasizes the need for increased efforts internationally in order to control tuberculosis domestically. The union endorses the Institute of Medicine report and its recommendations.

Representatives Brown, Morella, Waxman and Ganske have introduced two bills, one for domestic and one for international tuberculosis control, that are based on the Institute of Medicine recommendations. We estimate that it will cost in the neighborhood of \$200 million for the USAID component of these recommendations to be implemented.

I would encourage the subcommittee to review this TB proposed Senate legislation and to provide NIH, CDC and USAID, the major federal agencies responsible for tuberculosis control and research related to new tools related to tuberculosis, and to provide them with the resources needed to address TB in the U.S. and around the world.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, the subcommittee has initiated important programs to control tuberculosis internationally, but the work has only just begun. In your deliberations, I would ask that you consider the following.

First, 42 percent of the United States tuberculosis cases occur in foreign-born individuals. Clearly, the United States will not control tuberculosis domestically until the global tuberculosis problem is addressed.

Of greater importance, however, is that, globally, each year, at least in the past decade, approximately 2 million

people have died of tuberculosis, and it is estimated that 8 million new cases of tuberculosis, 8 million people, will develop tuberculosis in this year.

Because tuberculosis affects people in their most productive years, this disease causes a major impediment to economic development globally. TB creates more orphan children than any other infectious disease. It is the leading killer of HIV-positive individuals, causing over 30 percent of AIDS deaths. And as the number of tuberculosis cases has increased globally, the multidrug-resistant strain of the disease has emerged that poses a major threat----

Mr. Knollenberg [presiding]. Mr. Hopewell, let me just interrupt for a moment. You are at the conclusion?

Mr. Hopewell. Yes.

Mr. Knollenberg. Great. Thank you.

Mr. Hopewell. These statistics provide compelling rationale for the subcommittee to continue its support of international TB control by providing \$200 million for USAID for TB control in fiscal year 2002. On behalf of the union, I would like to thank the subcommittee for its leadership. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

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Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you for your testimony, and the entirety of that will be included in the record of course.

Any questions?

Ms. Pelosi. Mr. Chairman, if I may join you in----

Mr. Knollenberg. Ms. Pelosi?

Ms. Pelosi. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Join you in welcoming Dr. Hopewell to the committee. Friday was World Tuberculosis Day, and I was, in my community, received an honor for \$60 million. I accepted the award on behalf of this committee, because working with Mr. Callahan and you and others on the committee, we were able to get the figure up that high.

It is all we could have done because of the authorization; we were limited in that case to the authorization level. But it is not in any reflection of the need, which is, as Dr. Hopewell says, \$200 million.

By the nature of the way tuberculosis is spread so casually, and the rest, it is in all of our interests to stop it internationally, as well as domestically, because we will not stop it domestically unless we do so internationally.

So I thank you for your good work, Dr. Hopewell----

Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you.

Ms. Pelosi [continuing]. And for taking the time to come all the way to Washington.

Mr. Knollenberg. I just want to mention, too--thank you, Ms. Pelosi--you mentioned here that TB is the leading killer of women around the world, which I did not know. It is a signal of something disturbing.

So thank you very much.

Mr. Hopewell. Thank you.

Mr. Knollenberg. The next individual is Mr. Robert Edelman, and he is from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE

WITNESS

DR. ROBERT EDELMAN

Mr. Edelman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Knollenberg. We welcome you, Mr. Edelman. Your entire testimony will be included in the record. Thank you.

Mr. Edelman. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Robert Edelman. I am professor of medicine and pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. I am here on behalf of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, as you just heard.

The society is a professional organization of some 3,500 researchers and practitioners dedicated to the treatment and prevention of tropical diseases, and we appreciate this opportunity to testify before you.

The society thanks the members of this committee for the previous support for programs to combat tropical and infectious disease administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Your support for these medical programs has resulted in some remarkable progress.

The world health experts estimate that USAID's child survival programs have helped drop infant mortality rates in the developing world to their lowest levels ever. There is a long way to go.

Since 1985, the programs have helped to save over 25 million children. The child survival programs include critical activities to prevent and treat infectious diseases in developing nations. The activities improve vector control, enhance public health infrastructure through training programs and technical assistance, provide immunizations, oral rehydration therapy, Vitamin A supplementation, and AIDS prevention and treatments.

USAID's child survival programs are at the forefront of international efforts to alleviate morbidity and mortality among children under 5. These children represent the world's most vulnerable population.

The society also thanks the committee for support in the

current fiscal year for programs and initiatives to encourage research and development of vaccines and drugs to combat malaria, tuberculosis, AIDS and other infectious diseases. These diseases cause enormous suffering and millions of deaths annually.

Your support has helped to ensure that vaccines and drugs are accessible to populations in developing countries. Your efforts are critical to enhance partnerships between federal agencies, industry, nonprofit organizations, the World Bank and other international organizations.

Your support for the international AIDS vaccine initiative and AIDS trust fund, administered by the World Bank, will help advance the prospects for successful AIDS vaccines and therapies.

Now, I am a member of the Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland, and I would just like to share with you the fact that we are testing many vaccines to combat infectious scourges of children in developing countries. Our research is made possible through support of the federal government, such as yourselves, industry and private foundations.

Examples of the center's efforts include clinical testing of experiment dengue virus vaccines for prevention of dengue fever and lethal dengue hemorrhagic fever. Dengue sickens millions of children in tropical countries every year.

The center is also developing improved orally administered vaccines to prevent cholera, typhoid fever and lethal forms of dysentery in infants and children. Our center recently received a \$20 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation to develop an improved vaccine against early infancy measles. This improved measles vaccine would be used overseas, particularly in Africa, where the current licensed measles vaccine is poorly protective.

The society requests your continued support for international organizations, such as UNICEF and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, or GAVI; I see on your program, it had earlier testimony. These organizations purchase and distribute vaccines and drugs in developing countries.

Control of global infectious disease threats is not just a development issue, it is also a national security issue for the United States and a health concern for every American. By helping others, we are also launching a strong defense to protect the health of our nation.

We urge the subcommittee to provide the highest possible funding level for the USAID child survival programs, to help promote economic and social development in some of the poorest countries of the world.

And we also applaud the committee's 2001 support to establish coordinated centers by USAID for centers of excellence in malaria research. We seek additional funds for this effort and stand ready to work with the committee to facilitate these and other malaria prevention and control activities.

Thank you, really, for the opportunity to present to you, on behalf of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and thank you for consideration of its request.

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Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Next on the list is, I presume this is, Mr. C. Payne Lucas.
Do I have it right?

Mr. Lucas. Yes, sir.

Mr. Knollenberg. And, Mr. Lucas, you are with Africare. We acknowledge your coming forward to make your presentation. All of it will be included in the record.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

AFRICARE

WITNESS

C. PAYNE LUCAS

Mr. Lucas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to keep my remarks to five minutes.

Mr. Knollenberg. That is great. We appreciate that.

Mr. Lucas. I am the president of Africare, but I am here today representing UNDP. Normally, I would be represented with Africare, but the role of UNDP is so important that we are trying to establish our own U.S. committee on UNDP, so that we can, in the long run, get the same kind of support from the Congress and other places that UNICEF gets.

For Africa, this is the best of time and the worst of time. The best of time in the sense that there are more democratic governments in Africa than any other place in the world. And it is all new for us, which America should feel proud of.

The worst of times is that Africa is dying. It is as simple as that. When Dick Gephardt and Congressman Allen were in Africa last year, what they saw of HIV/AIDS was worse than what happened in Nazi Germany.

Everybody talks about this thing is so massive and the people do not even want to talk about it. Even in our churches at home they do not want to talk about it. But this is a serious problem for all of us.

Here we talk about an energy crisis, and on the rigs of Chevron and Exxon and other places, Africans are dying. There is not going to be anybody to run those rigs. The governments

in Africa are already stretched; their resources are already stretched.

And the one organization that makes a difference in pulling all of these donors together is UNDP. It is the one organization that has that respect.

Last year, year before last, you gave UNDP \$87 million. And now we are asking this year for \$110-\$120 million, and their work has almost doubled. It has almost doubled.

And the Congress asked UNDP to become more efficient. It has become more efficient. It has let lots of people go. It has a new UNDP director. So for something that we can feel proud of, they have responded to your marching orders.

And given all the things that Africa faces now, it would be difficult for us to say we cannot give UNDP any more money. And with few exceptions, I think in the international community, in the NGO community, in the African community, you will find less criticism of this agency than anyone else, because they do not engage in jurisdictional dispute: ``Who is responsible for this?'' When there are problems in the African governments, they turn to this agency with these competent international civil servants to help them solve their problem.

This is a situation that is desperate, and I hope you will give full opportunity for this budget request. Thank you.

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Mr. Knollenberg. Thanks for condensing your remarks.

Any member have----

Mr. Lewis. Mr. Knollenberg, only to mention that it is my understanding that Speaker Hastert will be visiting Africa within the month.

Mr. Lucas. Well, if he visits Africa, you tell him Mr. Lucas is prepared to go with him. [Laughter.]

Mr. Lewis. That is above my pay grade, but between now and then the important thing is that the speaker is going.

Mr. Lucas. And we have to get the leadership from America. The resources are there. Africa is still turning toward America for help. And for this, even though the last administration did a lot, the real response to what we care about Africa, including the trade bill and everything else, none of us can go much longer without getting on top of this problem, because the place is dying.

Mr. Lewis. I guess the point that I would make is that the map is different than the territory. To have the speaker traveling to Africa to see firsthand the challenges you are talking about is a pretty important development.

Mr. Knollenberg. We next look to, it is the Constituency for Africa, represented here today by Lauri J. Fitz-Pegado.

Ms. Fitz-Pegado. Yes, sir.

Mr. Knollenberg. Ms. Fitz-Pegado, you are entitled to begin, and your entire testimony, written or otherwise, will be included in the record.

Ms. Fitz-Pegado. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Knollenberg. You are welcome.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA

WITNESS

LAURI J. FITZ-PEGADO

Ms. Fitz-Pegado. It is a pleasure to be here today. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you.

My name is Lauri Fitz-Pegado. I am a board member of the Constituency for Africa. And I am here on behalf of the Honorable Ron Dellums, the chairman of the CFA, and the Honorable Jack Kemp, the vice-chairman of the Constituency for Africa.

CFA is a nonpartisan, 10-year-old coalition of organizations, groups and individuals concerned with the economic development and welfare of Africa and African peoples, working to educate Americans about critical issues affecting Africa and to encourage a strong public and public partnership to address issues of concern to the continent.

Following is a summary of Mr. Dellums and Mr. Kemp's statement.

We are charged with the monumental task for persuading you to steer the political might and moral authority of the Congress of the U.S. toward the execution of a proactive United States policy toward Africa. We ask for your unequivocal assistance in providing funding that is critical to pursuing a results-oriented strategy toward an effective U.S.-Africa foreign policy agenda.

With the support of organizations like CFA, several important initiatives were launched with strong and unprecedented bipartisan support in the Congress. These initiatives addressed Africa trade, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, debt

relief and conflict resolutions. U.S. policymakers must continue to focus on a more balanced strategy that deals with both the continent and the means of implementing any policy toward Africa.

While the historical passage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, the AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund, and measures to address Africa's debt load have emerged as a result of U.S. policy toward Africa, federal funding is needed to ensure the programmatic efforts that have been authorized in these measures are successfully implemented.

Consider, for example, that \$150 million in funding was authorized last year for the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Act. To date, less than \$30 million has been appropriated. For fiscal year 2002, we ask that \$130 million be provided to the U.S. Agency for International Development to support the implementation of this act.

Moreover, we ask that the committee include funding and language in the report that will assist and allow not-for-profit organizations, such as CFA, to strengthen and expand their efforts as they relate to Africa.

In particular, in fiscal year 2002, CFA asks that \$2 million be provided by the committee to support the establishment of a clearinghouse and technical assistance resource center.

CFA has worked diligently and effectively to bring greater attention and resources to the continent of Africa. We have never received any federal funding. The funding requested would assist us and the nation in providing critical outreach programs and related technical assistance services.

Clearly, the unfolding HIV/AIDS pandemic will reshape Africa and largely influence U.S. policy toward the continent. The latest figures from UNAIDS are that 58 million people worldwide have now been infected with the AIDS virus, 42 million of them from sub-Saharan Africa. Of the 58 million, 22 million have died already, 17 million in Africa.

Africa is now the home to more than 13 million AIDS orphans, with that number expected to rise to more than 40 million by 2010.

As tragic as these numbers are, we strongly believe that if the United States and resource-rich Western countries do not take some decisive action and the necessary measures to address those already infected by HIV/AIDS and to contain future infections in Africa, this epicenter will surely widen and shift to include untold millions living in Russia, Eastern Europe, India, China, Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States.

If ever there was a national and world security threat on our horizon, this is it. For these reasons, U.S. national interests in combating HIV/AIDS in Africa on moral, humanitarian, economic and transnational security grounds will increasingly be understood on global terms.

We also would encourage the Congress to move simply to build on the promise of the recently passed African Growth and Opportunity Act. CFA supported the passage of this groundbreaking legislation, which enjoyed tremendous bipartisan support.

As a former assistant secretary in the International Trade

Agency of the Department of Commerce, I understand and support the importance of trade to creating economic development, sustainable work forces and growth.

While the AGOA bill addresses issues and concerns of tariffs and market access for African goods sold in the U.S., perhaps the most important aspect of the AGOA bill is that it encourages American entrepreneurs and companies to look to Africa as a place where we can encourage trade, business development and economic growth.

U.S. trade with Africa is greater than with the former Soviet Union countries combined. U.S. exports to Africa total more than \$6 billion and generate employment for some 130,000 American workers. Critical imports from Africa, such as 68 percent of our imported oil, are substantial and increasing.

American companies going to Africa can indeed both do well and do good. The countries of Africa have a wealth of undeveloped human and natural resources that offer tremendous potential for the growth and sustainability of the continent.

To the distinguished members of this committee, in the words of CFA chairman, Ron Dellums, ``We must dig deep, let our moral compass point the way, and use our self-interest for motivation to address the challenges facing America and Africa as we move forward into the 21st century.''

I thank you for your time and hope that you will consider these requests.

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Mr. Knollenberg. We thank you for your testimony. We know it is a little tough to get everything in---

Ms. Fitz-Pegado. In five minutes. I tried.

Mr. Knollenberg. You did a good job and we appreciate that.

And does any member of the subcommittee have a question for---

Mr. Lewis. Would you please communicate to your chairman that it has been a long time since he has visited the Health Committee and I have been looking to see him?

Ms. Fitz-Pegado. All right.

Mr. Lewis. It is his friend Jerry Lewis asking him.

Ms. Fitz-Pegado. All right. I will.

Mr. Lewis. I know he is very busy these days.

Ms. Fitz-Pegado. All right. Thank you. I will convey that. Thank you very much.

Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you very much, Ms. Fitz-Pegado.

Now we have Madeline Wake with Marquette University. And we welcome you. The subcommittee is interested in your testimony, what your request might be. And everything that you have in your testimony will be included in the record.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

WITNESS

MADELINE WAKE

Ms. Wake. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am Madeline Wake, dean of the College of Nursing at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee, and I ask that my complete testimony be included in the record.

Mr. Knollenberg. So ordered.

Ms. Wake. I see the list of the people that you are seeing today, and I will try to keep my remarks brief but hit the key points.

You are aware, and I have heard the couple of testimonies, you are very aware of the magnitude of the AIDS crisis. Over 20 million Africans are affected today with HIV/AIDS. You are aware that USAID has taken a leadership role in the world in the response to AIDS, investing over \$800 million to date. The AIDS epidemic demands that we use the full spectrum of short- and long-term strategies.

The purpose of my testimony today is to alert you to an underutilized resource for fighting AIDS and to ask you to help us in tapping into that resource. The resource of focus is nursing. I ask you to direct a portion of USAID funding for capacity-building of the nursing work force in sub-Saharan Africa.

Efforts in mass communication, in medical care and in pharmaceuticals are important. However, these alone will not adequately address the problem. These will not adequately address the devastation of AIDS. For example, without diligent follow-up, ineffective use of discounted or even free drugs could produce drug-resistant strains of the virus.

There is a need to build a sustainable work force of health professionals who can mobilize their communities and build health-system infrastructure. Advanced HIV/AIDS nurse training would tap and empower a vital resource.

Nurses are the largest group of health professionals, close to the people, trusted members of their communities. They could offer care for persons with AIDS, which makes prevention efforts credible. They could begin to cut through the fear and the stigma, these barriers to testing, to lifestyle changes.

The training for these nurses needs to build on their preparation and be culturally appropriate. It must contain effective as well as cognitive elements. It must include caregiver support, burnout prevention and mechanisms for continuous learning. The field of AIDS is so dynamic.

I believe that nurse training can bring hope and the capacity to build the future in Africa. I thank you for your time, and I would entertain any questions.

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Mr. Knollenberg. Well, thank you very much, Ms. Wake. To undertake training of nurses for the purpose of dealing with AIDS in an environment and a culture that is altogether different than what they may be used to would be a substantial step. But it is a big step. You have to take into consideration a variety of factors for administering any kind of successful program.

Ms. Wake. That is correct. And this would mean that a program would have to have partners in the area and would have to include locals. And it would have to be, in fact, a local program, not something that we would simply bring an American solution to a problem in Africa.

Mr. Knollenberg. Have you consulted with Father D'Augustino?

Ms. Wake. I know Father D'Augustino. And I have also consulted with the East African Province of the Jesuits. I am from Marquette University. The Wisconsin Province is partnered with the East African Province, and we have very full support of the East African Province to move ahead with this.

Mr. Knollenberg. Very good.

Any other member want to----

Ms. Wake. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you very much. Appreciate your testimony.

Next in line would be the Nature Conservancy, which is represented today by Alexander Watson, who is former assistant secretary of state.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

WITNESS

ALEXANDER F. WATSON

Mr. Watson. Thank you very much.

Mr. Knollenberg. All of your testimony will be put into the record, and appreciate you being here.

Mr. Watson. Thank you very much, sir. It is a great honor and pleasure to appear before this subcommittee to testify

about the international conservation work of the Nature Conservancy.

I will make my oral remarks even briefer than my already brief written remarks, which thank you very much for having submitted into the record.

The conservancy protects the plants and animals that make up the natural world, primarily through protection of their habitat. In our international work, we stress raising the effective level of protection in parks and nature preserves by working with and strengthening local, private, nonprofit organizations, by strengthening civil society, as well as governments.

Our conservation programs in the U.S. and overseas are mutually supportive. For example, it is not possible to ensure the health of the San Pedro River and its biodiversity in Arizona without working at its headwaters in Mexico, and we do. And we cannot protect the migratory birds that grace our woods, fields and shores unless we protect their winter habitats in Latin America and the Caribbean, and we do that, too.

We are a private, nonprofit organization. Our budget derives approximately 92 percent from private donors. We are in the midst of our largest private fund-raising effort ever. We hope to raise \$1 billion in private funds over five years. We have about \$655 million in cash and pledges already, and \$120 million of that will be for international conservation work.

But the assistance we receive for our cooperative relationship with the U.S. Agency for International Development remains essential, because it is hard to fund-raise private dollars for operating costs of our programs.

The Parks in Peril program in Latin America and the Caribbean is our flagship program. Parks in Peril and similar efforts in the Asian-Pacific region are successful and widely respected.

In a typical year, AID, mainly through its Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, has provided Parks in Peril and our other international work with about \$7 million. We are talking with AID about the next stage of Parks in Peril, called Parks in Peril 2000, which will leverage our proven methodology at more places approved by AID.

This committee has praised the Parks in Peril program in your past reports, and we hope you will do so again.

The degree of leverage of the U.S. government's investment in Park in Peril is very high, not only the \$16.5 million of documented matching funds that we and our partners provide, but also a total of about \$290 million raised by us and our local partners from other donors, the World Bank and American Development Bank, et cetera, for conservation work at or near our sites.

AID's support to biodiversity is contained within the environment item in the development assistant account. The base level in recent years has been between \$70 and \$100 million for the whole world.

We do not know what AID's numbers, the administration's number for fiscal year 2002 are going to be, because the AID budget is not released until next week.

I am concerned, however, that in the competition for resources, AID's support for international conservation might

lose out, despite its success and despite its support in the Congress.

Therefore, we urge the committee to provide unambiguous guidance in your report directing a fiscal year 2002 investment by AID of at least \$100 million in conservation.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make two other very brief points this afternoon. The first concerns the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, often referred to as the Portman act. This is another key program funded within Foreign Operations.

We are grateful that you appropriated \$13 million for this account in fiscal year 2001. The administration has indicated in its budget summary that it will request more for the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. We do not know exactly what ``more'' means in this context.

The House budget resolution report, March 23, and I am quoting here, ``assumes the program will receive sufficient resources to continue progress.'' And President Bush, during the campaign, explicitly pledged in his Miami speech to seek \$100 million for the Tropical Forest Conservation Act.

An appropriation near that level would make the Tropical Forest Conservation Act a truly significant factor in saving the tropical forests.

And finally, the Global Environment Facility is the largest single source of biodiversity conservation funds in the world, \$1.18 billion so far for the 395 projects. We urge the committee to fund the current year pledge of the United States of \$170.5 million in full, and as much as possible toward U.S. arrears.

Thank you very much.

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Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you very much, Mr. Watson.

I have no questions myself. Obviously, your entire commentary will be included, as well as your written testimony, in the record.

Ms. Lowey?

Mrs. Lowey. Thank you for your important work.

Mr. Watson. Thanks very much.

Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you very much.

Mr. Watson. Thank you for the privilege of being here.

Mr. Knollenberg. Estrellita Fitzhugh, who represents World Wildlife Fund, next up.

We welcome you.

Ms. Fitzhugh. Thank you.

Mr. Knollenberg. And look forward to your testimony.

Ms. Fitzhugh. Thank you again.

Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

WITNESS

ESTRELLITA J. FITZHUGH

Ms. Fitzhugh. Thank you.

World Wildlife Fund, representing 1.2 million members, is dedicated to protecting the world's wildlife and rich biological diversity that we all need to survive. WWF is one of the leading privately supported international conservation organizations in the world.

Americans often underestimate how conserving the world's biological diversity is critical to furthering U.S. foreign policy interests. U.S. government-funded conservation programs help achieve these interests. For example, many conservation programs, as a related benefit, strengthen local democratic processes by teaching communities how to manage, benefit and demand a say in local resources.

U.S. Government interests in stable economic markets often are determined by how well the resources are sustainably managed. In raising living standards abroad, U.S. Government could focus on a cost-effective solution to potable water by preserving or restoring the world's watersheds and wetlands.

Medical cures to diseases often depend on plants and animals. For example, a Central African subspecies of the chimpanzee has been identified as a potential source for the AIDS cure. Yet, as we speak, this animal is being hunted to near-extinction.

Many U.S. Government-funded programs have made impressivestrides in conserving biodiversity around the world, and my testimony details a number of these programs. They illustrate how, with adequate and long-term U.S. Government funding, in partnership with private funding and other donor funds, threats to biodiversity can creatively and successfully be addressed.

But putting these successes in the larger context of global threats to biodiversity, one sees a daunting challenge. In the past few decades, growing human populations and consumption have, and continue to fuel, wholesale destruction of wild habitats around the world, and an accelerated degradation of the planet's environment.

In the past few years alone, forest degradation in countries such as Indonesia has reached alarming rates. At current U.S. Government funding levels, this conservation crisis cannot be adequately addressed.

WWF therefore recommends that the agencies and institutions that help achieve conservation of biodiversity be funded at the levels we have outlined in my testimony, and I will highlight a few of them.

Under USAID, the conservation of biodiversity program, we urge the subcommittee to appropriate \$110 million. For a number of years, USAID steadily decreased its funding for biodiversity conservation. Fortunately, in the last two years, this subcommittee, under the leadership of Chairman Callahan and Ranking Member Pelosi, directed USAID to restore some modest funding toward conservation programs. We are deeply concerned by reports that the Bush administration will request a \$30 million-plus cut in the development assistance budget and overall environmental programs, of which biodiversity

activities is a part.

Given the enormous threat to biodiversity globally, we urge the subcommittee to continue its tradition and continue the slow but steady increase in appropriations in recent years by your marking up \$110 million for biodiversity conservation.

With regard to the Global Environment Facility, we recommend both that the subcommittee appropriate the current U.S. contribution of \$107.5 million and \$203 million in accumulated arrearages, thus bringing the U.S. account to current level.

And lastly, one of the other highlights in my list is the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. WWF supports President Bush's stated pledge to fund the implementation of this act at \$100 million. Appropriating this amount will be key to the law's effective implementation.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the fundamental balance between human enterprise and biological diversity upon which we all depend must be restored. We ask that this government and its global partners meet this challenge for the sake of future generations.

Thank you.

I would just like to leave with you this from the National Geographic, which deals with this issue of biodiversity. It was part of their millennium series, which I hope you will enjoy for your bedtime reading.

[The information follows:]

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Mr. Lewis. Thank you.

Mr. Knollenberg. Well, thank you----

Ms. Fitzhugh. Thank you.

Mr. Knollenberg [continuing]. Very much. We do appreciate your comments.

Now we need to move on to Earth Voice and Jan Hartke.

How are you, Mr. Hartke?

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

EARTH VOICE

WITNESS

JAN HARTKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EARTH VOICE

Mr. Hartke. Hello, Congressman.

Mr. Knollenberg. We welcome you, and your full testimony will be included in the record.

Mr. Hartke. Thank you.

Mr. Knollenberg. We will let you begin any time, even though you will be denied a couple of seconds here, you will have five minutes.

Mr. Hartke. First, it is an honor to be here, and it is good to see you, Mr. Chairman, and to have your expressed interest by having all of us come in and testify.

And I also want to say hello again to Congressman Lewis. It is good to see you again, and thank you for coming to listen to all of our concerns.

I am executive director of Earth Voice, the co-chairman of the Alliance for the United Nations Sustainable Development Programs, and the vice chairman of the Campaign to Preserve U.S. Global Leadership, an organization comprising over 300 major U.S. corporations and nongovernmental organizations.

I know my time is short, as everyone's is, so I would like to do the punchlines up, and get to some of the underlying arguments.

I would like to ask that adequate funding and attention be provided in four operations budgets this year for the following programs. First, \$311 million in current year funding and back payments for the Global Environment Facility, one of the most important global environment activities in the world, which really I have seen their projects in the field, and they are doing extraordinary work.

Second, \$15 million for the United Nations Environment Program, to bring us back to historic funding levels. This is the conscience of the United Nations system. I think, here again, I could talk about the regional seas program, the information database that they are building up globally. They are doing a really much better job than they have, in my judgment, in the past and deserve a new look.

Third, \$15 million for the International Fund for Agricultural Development and \$5 million unfulfilled commitments from previous years. Again, this is a lead organization on many areas, but particularly a major important organization for Africa, and in particular to arrest the growing threat of desertification that afflicts my old state, where I was state treasurer, of New Mexico, Arizona and other states.

And then for full funding for the United Nations Development Program, which I understand others have testified regarding.

And lastly, here again, I am very encouraged to see President Bush recommend \$100 million for the Tropical Forest Conservation Act under the Enterprise for the Americas. This is

a really great new effort to get leverage on your money here in Congress to do great work abroad, to save these endangered rain forests and all the biological diversity that we have heard about, which is really where most of it exists.

All of these organizations have been formed together and are tied together by a common thread. No one nation can solve these kinds of global problems. You cannot require the forest to have one nation look at it. You cannot take the oceans and have one nation solve it. These are things that need to be solved in a global capacity.

And before I go to the rest of the testimony, I would just say to you after several years of having discussion with Charlie Flickner here and members of your committee and so forth, and many others, what happens in this committee, every little turn of the dial in your mind, every concern you have, every new sensitivity, has an enormous impact when you leave these rooms on the programs that we see in the field, the ones I mentioned.

Small areas of concern for you register big around the world, have a huge ripple effect. I just cannot hardly emphasize it enough. This subcommittee here can in many ways key what happens around the world.

I did not know that was going to happen, but as I began to look at this over the last several years, you see that the other countries are keying on this country. They say they do not, but they do.

If we ramp up, we meet these obligations--and not just meeting obligations, but stepping up to these challenges and resolving problems in the field, and with real people and real communities, and saving the environment.

These are not even controversial in a political sense. They are only controversial in a general budget sense.

But I think that the key point is, if we ratchet down, then the world says, well, for whatever reasons, the leadership, they ratchet down. So your numbers are eight times bigger than whatever you say here, one way or the other, and it is hugely important.

Just to mention two specifics, the United States is an undisputed world leader today in the field of environmental technologies. United States firms are the largest recipients of global environment facility grants. Out of all the world, I could have chosen anyplace, but let me just give you one example of the importance of these environmental technologies to U.S. economy.

The Greater Tucson Economic Council has formed the environmental technology----

[Laughter.]

That is just a wild throw of the dart--has formed the environmental technology industry cluster. And in its vision statement, it said ``to lead the State of Arizona into the 21st century as the worldwide center for products and services dedicated to the solution and prevention of environmental problems.''

Tucson is a home to many of the firms that provide more than 5,000 environmental technology jobs in Arizona and \$2 billion in annual revenues. The Environmental Export Council here, which is a huge organization in this country, composed of

everybody from the really big boys down to the smaller shops, have made a plea to this new administration to step up, to say, ``Let's promote our environmental exports,' ' this being a prime example, but there are many, many others across the country.

And we should be an international leader in this area. Again, it is not controversial in the political sense. It is only a question of willpower of the Congress, and I think the administration.

Lastly, let me just end on the United Nations Environment Program. Here again, the number that I requested, and that is backed by many, many other organizations and interests and individuals, is higher by far than before. I would ask the committee simply this, to look at it from two perspectives: a better management effort. The protocol that they passed in the Caribbean is very significant; the database that they are building up globally.

We have to have men of science who know what they are doing on the environment before we just get out there and start taking care of everything. And that is what they are trying to do. They are trying to build up this data base around the world. They are doing a great job of it. And I think if we could give them some encouragement it would be important.

I know my time is up. Lastly, as I walk away, the trade issue----

[Laughter.]

[The information follows:]

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Mr. Knollenberg. Well, thank you Mr. Hartke.

Mr. Hartke. I hope that I am not being abusive of the committee's time.

Mr. Knollenberg. Thank you. Thank you very kindly.

Mr. Hartke. Thank you very much.

Mr. Knollenberg. Next we have the International Medical Corps, Nancy Aossey.

Ms. Aossey. Yes.

Mr. Knollenberg. Okay, Nancy, you are welcome.

Ms. Aossey. Thank you.

Mr. Knollenberg. And I look forward to your comments, and you are recognized and please commence.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS

WITNESS

NANCY A. AOSSEY, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS

Ms. Aossey. Thank you, and I want to thank all the members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify today.

I am president of International Medical Corps, which is a Los Angeles-based international relief and training organization. My other hat is I also serve as chair of InterAction, which, as you probably know, is the largest coalition of U.S. relief, development and refugee agencies, with 160 members located in 24 states throughout the U.S.

But today, I would like to talk to you in my capacity as president of International Medical Corps, or IMC, which was established in 1984.

IMC doctors and nurses and midwives have provided health care and training for vulnerable populations caught up in many of these humanitarian emergencies and post-conflict transitions in more than 30 countries and territories around the world.

Since our inception, training has really been the most integral part of all of our programs and has proven to be a very powerful and extremely cost-effective way to promote self-reliance and build local capacity.

Mr. Chairman, we at IMC are gratified that Secretary of State Powell has recently called a broad array of U.S. aid programs the backbone of our foreign affairs. In fact, we all know that smart and timely humanitarian and development assistance can have a very powerful impact in creating conditions that promote political stability and development.

And from East Timor to the Balkans to Central Africa, IMC has been on the front lines of many of these efforts to provide critical services and build local capacity.

So I would like to talk to you a little bit about our experience. In East Timor, for example, we are providing health care training and services to the isolated enclave of Oekusi, and we are about to undertake the development of a new national health professional training institute in Dili.

In Kosovo, we are training local health workers, emergency care first aid, and infectious disease control. We provided health care advice to tens of thousands of Kosovars in mobile clinics. We rehabilitated health facilities and we offered psychosocial programs to help youth and adults deal with the post-traumatic stress.

And in Burundi, we engaged in vaccination efforts, therapeutic and supplemental feeding, and malnutrition screening, as well as training of TBAs and community health workers.

But even as we effectively attempt to address these current concerns, we are confronted with new and formidable humanitarian challenges from the worldwide crisis of internal displacement, to the tragedy of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The AIDS pandemic, in particular, threatens to devastate much of the African continent's economy and social fabric in

the decade to come, and part of Asia and Europe are at serious risk as well. And while efforts to reduce the costs of drugs to poor and developing countries are welcomed, the pandemic will not be contained without a vast expansion for basic health care services training and delivery.

At a time when the international community ought to be doing much more, and at a time when the U.S. remains very much the world leader, the U.S. still lags behind all industrialized donor nations in the percent of our GNP devoted to overseas assistance. We are concerned that funding for the international disaster and transitional assistance accounts appears to be reduced from current aggregate levels, as these modest programs are promoting critical U.S. humanitarian and regional security objectives in the Balkans, Indonesia, East Timor, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, among other countries. Rather than being reduced or straight-lined, these programs we believe should be augmented substantially.

We have experience of the human implications of these funding shortfalls. In southern Sudan, IMC programs have treated thousands of Sudanese infected with sleeping sickness, and epidemic rates have been cut dramatically in areas of activity. But our program has been reduced due to lack of donor support.

We are now at a crossroads. We can either slide back and see a recurrence of the epidemic, or we can continue and strengthen our efforts at treatment and control, and demonstrate U.S. commitment and resolve.

On the Pakistan-Afghan border, IMC is supporting primary health care services for displaced Afghan women and children, as well as training programs for Afghan women health workers. If more resources were available, we could expand this exceptional program, and further assist Afghan women struggling to rebuild their lives under grueling and miserable circumstances.

In Sierra Leone, we face similar choices. In the districts where we are operating, we are providing critical health services and training, but the increase in refugee return will require significant additional resources, if we are going to respond effectively to the rapid onset of returnee families. Such a response would be critical to sustain a very fragile transition process in that country.

We understand that the administration is requesting an increase in foreign affairs funding from about \$22.6 billion to \$23.8 billion, with the additional monies focused largely on technology, human resources and security upgrades for the Department of State.

This is a very laudable initiative to provide critical resources to U.S. diplomats, but we believe they should be coupled with long-term commitments to augment the very humanitarian programs that U.S. officials seek to administer day-in and day-out. Such a commitment would not only serve our national security interests, but also embody the values of humanitarianism that reflect our highest ideals and our highest aspirations.

And I am sorry I went over.

[The information follows:]

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Mr. Knollenberg. You did very well, and you almost got it within.

I just had one quick question.

Ms. Aosse. Sure.

Mr. Knollenberg. For the record, should ongoing programs, such as aid to Sudan, for example, continue to drain funds from the disaster assistance account that is designed for, what we call, unanticipated expenses? Should we continue, do you think?

Ms. Aosse. I think we should just enlarge the whole pie. I think that, based on our experience, one of our concerns is that, like, for instance, in southern Sudan, where certainly more assistance is needed, I cannot think of any other place where funding ought to be cut. I think the U.S. could be and should be doing more, generally speaking, with its own budget.

Someone mentioned earlier that the rest of the world tends to look to the U.S. as the leader. And so much of what they do, they gauge based on what the U.S. does. And I just felt that we could do more overall.

Mr. Knollenberg. Would you care to respond in writing, maybe in greater detail? We do not have the time here.

Ms. Aosse. Sure. I would be happy to.

Mr. Knollenberg. If you could give us, perhaps, more detail, more of an explanation on it. We would appreciate that.

Ms. Aosse. Okay. Great. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. Knollenberg. We have next David Hoffman with Internews. And Mr. Hoffman, you are welcome, and we look forward to your testimony, and all of your testimony will put in the record.

Mr. Hoffman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the issue of open media around the world.

Mr. Knollenberg. I am just changing chairs. The real chairman is coming back.

Mr. Hoffman. It is an honor, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kolbe. [presiding]. Thank you very much, Mr. Knollenberg, for taking the chair.

Please go ahead.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

INTERNEWS

WITNESS

DAVID HOFFMAN, PRESIDENT, INTERNEWS

Mr. Hoffman. Thank you.

Electronic media are the most powerful force for social change in the world today. As Americans, we live and breathe in an information age. Media are central to our economy, our

culture, our political system and our everyday life.

But in many countries of the world, free media can by no means be taken for granted. In Russia, President Putin has been prosecuting Victor Gusinsky and his influential TV network. In Ukraine, the prime minister has been accused of ordering the murder of a dissident journalist. In China, they are closing Web sites. In Iran, they have closed dozens of newspapers and thrown their editors in jail. And we all saw how former President Milosevic used state media as a propaganda tool to foment hatred and violence in the Balkans.

With U.S. Government support, Internews and other NGOs were able to deliver critical aid to independent broadcasters in Serbia that formed the nucleus of the opposition to the Milosevic regime. In Serbia and in many countries around the world, free, independent broadcasters have been on the front lines in the fight for freedom and democracy.

During the last 10 years, with significant funding from USAID, Internews has helped develop 1,500 independent broadcasters that reach almost 300 million people every day in 23 countries. We trained 16,000 journalists. In all these countries, we have learned that open media are essential to holding free and fair elections, to uncovering corruption and human rights abuses, to allowing for the free exchange of ideas. American support of uncensored news outlets should be at the top of our foreign policy agenda.

This committee and this Congress ought to be proud of your support for open media around the world: in the former Soviet Union; in the Balkans; most recently, in Indonesia. But there are large areas of the world where open media have yet to take hold.

In Africa, in particular, free media are just in infancy. We encourage the committee to continue to expand support of open media in the developing world.

Let me share with you the key lessons that Internews has learned in almost 20 years of dealing with international media issues.

First, local indigenous media are the best counterweight to repressive regimes everywhere. They should be supported as an integral part of American foreign policy.

Second, support for local indigenous media is the most effective means for building open, civil societies and healthy market economies. This support needs to be sustained for the long run until these economies and civil societies are in place.

And third, in the developing world, locally produced radio programs and other media coverage are unparalleled in their potential to effectively educate mass populations about urgent social problems like HIV/AIDS.

It is this last point I would like to close on, and urge the committee to give special attention to as well.

At a time when the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Africa has reached catastrophic proportions, there is an important opportunity to harness the power of local media to reduce the spread of this disease. Yet, local news coverage of this epidemic is often seriously flawed.

As a recent Time magazine cover story concluded,
``Ignorance is the crucial reason why the epidemic has run out

of control.'" By training local African journalists to cover this issue effectively and responsibly, we can reduce the ignorance and fear that have exacerbated the suffering.

One of the biggest challenges we face with dealing with the AIDS pandemic is reaching young audiences with needed information before they become sexually active. By focusing a media campaign on pre-pubescent African children, we can begin to get ahead of the spread of this deadly virus.

Internews requests that this committee recommend funding in the amount of \$2 million to implement a media training program to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. As elected officials, you know better than most the unequalled power of the media to inform and motivate the public.

In Africa and the developing world, nothing is more effective than hearing local people on radio speaking in their local dialect. If we can educate those voices about the true nature of the HIV virus, we can begin to change the attitudes and practices that have allowed this disease to run out of control.

The democratic, open media in Africa is both a moral and a political imperative.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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Mr. Lewis. Let me just mention that the pandemic of Africa is only the star that we see with regularity. The same testimony applies very much to other parts of Asia----

Mr. Hoffman. Absolutely.

Mr. Lewis [continuing]. Where there are huge difficulties and the need for the kind of communication you are talking about. It is much more hidden than----

Mr. Hoffman. Yes. Yes, certainly in Asia, there is a huge problem. We have some model programs, experimenting in Russia, Ukraine and Indonesia. We found a great deal of success there.

Mr. Lewis. India and China are much more difficult countries. The same problem exists----

Mr. Hoffman. Yes, but you do not have independent media in China. In India, you definitely----

Mr. Lewis. In India, you have a lot of it, but the cultural mix is such that it is extremely difficult when you have 200

dialects. But the point is still the same.

Mr. Hoffman. But this is why independent local media is so crucial, because you are train each person. They talk in their own idiom, and they talk in their own culture, and people can relate to it. When you try to get Madison Avenue ads to work in these foreign countries, they do not work.

Mr. Lewis. The populations and numbers are very large in Africa, but the population numbers in a place like India are--
--

Mr. Hoffman. Congressman, we would like to do this everywhere, actually, where it is needed, as you know.

Thank you.

Mr. Lewis. I was just raising the flag.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

I understand that it is important that any kind of advertising campaign has to be culturally sensitive. There has been experiences with organizations which have tried exactly what you are talking about and failed dismally.

Mr. Hoffman. We are aware of that.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

Dennis Smith?

Mr. Smith. Hello.

Mr. Kolbe. Good afternoon, thank you very much, Mr. Smith. Professor Smith, we can assure that your entire statement will be put in the record, if you would like to summarize your statement for us.

Mr. Smith. Yes.

Mr. Kolbe. Go ahead.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

WITNESS

DENNIS SMITH, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE OF THE ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Mr. Smith. I certainly do not need to tell you gentlemen that the American experiment in democratic decisionmaking began long ago and in simpler times, but the challenges of conveying lessons of our experience to other nations in the world is a major challenge, and the struggle for democracy and economic freedom will require new weapons. It will require the kind of ingenuity that enabled this country to win the Cold War.

Now, to enjoy the full fruits of that, we need to have some innovation of a different kind.

Mr. Kolbe. Excuse me. We will try to handle this vote here. You will stay. I will vote and be right back before your testimony is over.

Mr. Smith. Oh, very good.

Mr. Kolbe. Please keep going.

Mr. Smith. I represent the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.

In the past decade in particular, our role in training and teaching people from around the world, from NIS and from Africa

and Asia and Latin America, has dramatically expanded. We have current partnerships with universities and countries all over the world, and we have State Department-funded projects in Ukraine on democratic decisionmaking, and in Mozambique on capacity-building and policy analysis and health management.

And our faculty provided technical assistance in a number of countries around the world, in conjunction with World Bank and other international organizations.

More than 60 students have worked with Wagner faculty on projects around the world in the last several years on something called the Capstone Program. In this current year, we have had students working in teams from the Wagner School paired with teams of students in, for example, Mozambique, doing evaluation projects on programs carried out by international organizations.

And to carry out those programs, we have used a variety of distance-learning technologies to make it possible for them to work together.

The Wagner school is deeply involved in nonprofit organization capacity-building in developing countries, and we have partnerships in a number of countries to do that. A developing one was the first program in public nonprofit management in Spain, and the first one in Argentina to work jointly on a program of capacity-building in the nonprofit world in Latin America.

We have also created programs, I think this is the first in the world, to train managers of international public service organizations. We have had, now, two classes. These intensive programs. They spend several months in New York, learning the management of organizations like Save the Children, UNICEF and so on.

That is critically important because this is a new field of service delivery. Very complex problems are being taken on by these international organizations, and very dedicated people in these organizations have not been trained to manage the kinds of complex problem-solving that they are being assigned.

Even as the largest graduate school of public service in the United States, serving as we do a large number of international students from around the world, we cannot possibly reach all the people that would like to take the programs that we have to offer.

The program that we gave you, that we are asking for support of, makes the case that distance-learning technologies linked to the kinds of curriculum we have developed on managing public services and nonprofit organizations is a very effective way to expand the reach of our programs.

We have been developing this, using those technologies wherever we have partnerships, and we have seen their potential. We believe that, in order to be able to achieve the full potential of those technologies, we have to have a dedicated facility which we are proposing to create at the Wagner school in New York City as an international center for democratic public service.

We believe with the kinds of technologies that are available--distance-learning technologies in classrooms, facilities to link student teams working on public problems around the world, between New York and Mozambique and Buenos

Aires and Mexico City and so forth, big cities of the world where a lot of the problems are concentrated--we can convey the learning that we have in the United States, take advantage of our location in New York City to bring many minds together around the world, using this global center. And so we are asking for support for that project.

[The information follows:]

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for coming, Dr. Smith. Thank you very much for testifying.

Gary Davis from the National Corn Growers Association.

Mr. Davis, thank you very much for coming.

Go ahead.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

WITNESS

GARY DAVIS

Mr. Davis. Chairman Kolbe and members of the committee, my name is Gary Davis. I am an corn grower and veterinarian, and I am here representing the National Corn Growers and also the Farm Bureau Federation and the Society for Plant Physiologists. I serve on the National Corn Growers Research Group, and we are actively involved in the plant genome work.

And I appreciate the opportunity to discuss plant genomics and biotechnology with your committee and feel it is a very significant role for these technologies in alleviating some of the problems we have in terms of child survival and world hunger and deprivation, particularly in developing countries.

We are requesting \$50 million for integrated research effort across multiple disciplines, involving multiple research efforts. We feel that USAID should have a single, comprehensive focus.

And we have an old problem, obviously: We cannot overstate the problems that there are, in terms of hundreds of millions of children, in terms of dietary deficiencies, malnutrition, and that, we feel, this is an opportune time to approach this old problem with new tools and make a significant increase in efforts to combat these issues.

There are obviously examples of, in the media that we are all aware of, for biotechnology sector can do things like new varieties of rice with high levels of vitamin A and minerals, iron. There are edible vaccines on the horizon, such as Hepatitis B coming from bananas and corn, and the cholera virus from potatoes.

So we feel that now is the time to expand the effort and to focus a coordinated approach to solving some of the world's hunger problems through these efforts.

We believe that significant advances made in plant genomics and biotechnology and that USAID should focus on achieving sustainable improvements in helping prevent disease in a sustainable manner, utilizing these new technologies rather than just continually utilizing dollars to produce vaccines that have problems in distribution and getting to where they are needed and refrigeration.

Specifically, we would encourage that Congress provide the money for focused funding of the following areas.

One, the development of crops where we can increase the critical micronutrient level, vitamin A being an example. There are many others as we are looking at now.

Collaborative grants to major research efforts here and abroad to develop stress-tolerant crops, such as drought resistance or insect or disease resistance that are adaptable to the countries where the need exists.

To develop edible vaccines through a grant program.

And to target, of course, funding. If we have the new technology and the development information, we also need to train the scientists locally, as we were talking earlier about the communication problems. We need to get it to where the problem exists.

So we thank you for your time. Appreciate your consideration of this request. And I would entertain questions.

[The information follows:]

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Dr. Davis. We appreciate

the work you are doing.

It is an interesting program. Quite frankly, I was not aware of this, so this has been helpful information for the subcommittee to have. And we will take a look. Thank you very much.

Mr. Davis. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Now, we are going back to the Middle East and some of our ethnic groups There. The American Lebanese Institute.

Ready?

Mr. Epperly. Ready.

Mr. Kolbe. Go ahead.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

AMERICAN LEBANESE INSTITUTE

WITNESS

DAVID EPPERLY

Mr. Epperly. Yes, my name is David Epperly, and I am testifying on behalf of the American Lebanese Institute, which is a member of the Council of Lebanese American Organizations, which is a membership organization here in the United States, representing the interests and sentiments of over three million Americans of Lebanese descent.

We work for the cause of freedom and sovereignty in Lebanon and start by calling for the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Syrian forces from the country. Both the institute and the council act to promote ties of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Lebanon based on the principles of democracy and human rights.

With this brief background, let me outline our concerns and suggestions to the subcommittee. And we understand it is not the committee's responsibility to sort out the internal problems of Lebanon, but these are suggestions that we feel are related to funding to Lebanon.

Unfortunately, since our last testimony, and we come here on a yearly basis, the situation in Lebanon has continued to deteriorate. The country remains subjugated to Syrian domination. And instead of bringing the much desired stability, prosperity and all the reasons that the Syrians put forth for the continued occupation, the results are human rights abuses, political intrigue, economic exploitation, continued violence in the south and the usage of Lebanon as a haven for international terrorism and drug trafficking.

On the way over here. I was listening to C-Span and one of the other committees, the subject for today is human cloning. And I found it kind of interesting that there is a parallel between that and what is going on in Lebanon. Syria is essentially trying to clone Lebanon into a perfect copy of itself. And Lebanon was always a free and democratic country. And so this is kind of a throwback to the Cold War era and the Stalinist era.

And yesterday in The Washington Post, there was an

interesting article about Syria that I copied for you and about the economy of Syria. And the fact that they are not really making much progress in going forward. And I think it is very relevant. It is interesting reading, if you have not already read it.

It is disturbing to think that a country with such a track record would seek to manage another country, the economy, the political system of another country. But that is what you have in Lebanon. And as American citizens of Lebanese descent, obviously, this is pretty disturbing.

There are still hundreds of Lebanese unaccounted for in Syrian prisons for political crimes. Their whereabouts, their welfare is not known. We are associated with a human rights organization that was just in Washington last week that met with a couple of members of Congress to discuss that situation. Some of these people have disappeared since 1976. And so, that is a pretty disturbing situation.

But the bottom line for us is, any aid that goes to Lebanon is essentially going to Syria. So we wanted to call the subcommittee's attention to that and recommend that the aid that is destined for Lebanon--and Lebanon is worthy of U.S. support, because, by and large, most Lebanese are very pro-U.S. Many of them have families here. So traditionally there is a strong linkage between Lebanon and the United States.

But we suggest that that aid go to universities, such as the American University of Beirut, other universities, medical institutions, the hardworking NGOs that work in Lebanon, do a lot of very important work, as opposed to sending the money through the government coffers, because there is a tremendous amount of corruption and graft. And so, chances are that any U.S. aid that went through the Lebanese government would not really filter down to the people who really need it most.

That is the thrust of our testimony.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.388

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.389

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.390

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.391

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.392

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.393

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much. And let me just say I think you are absolutely correct. And I think it is also true that our aid does make it to organizations such as the ones you suggested, universities, medical schools, other universities, those organizations.

Mr. Epperly. And we also----

Mr. Kolbe. But there is nothing that goes to any government program.

Mr. Epperly. The Lebanese army is an institution worthy of continued support, but it is under Syrian domination right now. The U.S. Government needs to send a message to Syria to stop

blocking the Lebanese army from deploying to the south to secure the border with Israel. And that is another issue that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Epperly. We certainly appreciate your coming.

Mr. Epperly. It is my pleasure. Thanks for having me. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. Looking forward to seeing you during the course of the year.

Mr. Epperly. All right. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. George Cody from the American Task Force for Lebanon.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

AMERICAN TASK FORCE FOR LEBANON

WITNESS

GEORGE T. CODY

Mr. Cody. Hi, I am George Cody, executive director of the American Task Force for Lebanon. And I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the committee for allowing us to present testimony today. I am presenting our testimony on behalf of the Honorable Thomas Nassif, who is chairman of the American Task Force for Lebanon. And I would like to have the statement included in the record.

Mr. Kolbe. Your full statement will be placed in the record.

Mr. Cody. Thank you very much.

The American Task Force for Lebanon is an organization whose goal is to work toward reestablishing a secure, stable, democratic, independent and sovereign Lebanon with full control over all its territory.

We want to thank the Congress for including a provision of \$35 million for Lebanon in fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations bill, which was signed into law by the President November 6, 2000.

A congressional notification of \$15 million has been submitted and approved for Lebanon. We now urge that the remaining \$20 million be disbursed.

And because of the lack of a comprehensive Middle East peace agreement, Lebanon is facing now, as it has faced for the past 34 years, a difficult regional predicament.

The statement by Lebanon's prime minister in Paris on February 15 regarding Lebanon's not wanting to provide a pretext for an Israeli attack is an indication of Lebanon's concern with instability along the border.

Certain elements in Lebanon would be overjoyed if the U.S. not only cut back its foreign assistance in Lebanon, but totally eliminated that assistance. The U.S. cannot completely cede influence in a crucial area such as south Lebanon.

Congress is rightly concerned that recipients of economic support fund and development assistance not become mired in a permanent state of dependency on foreign assistance. A silver

lining in the dark cloud of economic recession in Lebanon is the Lebanese public and political order recognize the urgent need for economic reform.

Thus, the Lebanese government is now beginning to enact long deferred and necessary reforms. Among measures taken or being considered are: a massive reduction in the state bureaucracy, an open skies policy, privatization of the telecommunications industry and Middle East airlines and a new banking secrecy law. Obviously, much of Lebanon's economic performance is dependent upon elusive Middle East peace.

The task force urges that the level of economic support fund and development assistance appropriated for Lebanon in fiscal year 2001, \$35 million, be maintained for fiscal year 2002. Upon Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon last May 24, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, David Satterfield, recommenced an increase of \$60 million over three years from Lebanon's previous foreign assistance level. The \$35 million amount would directly accord with the Ambassador's recommendation.

Much of the increased U.S. foreign assistance to Lebanon is being used to expand USAID's rural community development clusters in south Lebanon. USAID-Lebanon has organized 31 clusters, which operate in 251 villages and affect about 600,000 people. If Lebanon received the full complement of \$35 million, the clusters program would expand to 36 clusters operating in 330 villages and affecting 710,000 people.

These rural projects have also been highly successful at leveraging Lebanese capital assistance, which is something the task force encourages. Typically, 30 percent of the cost of the project comes from the villages or the Lebanese government in either labor or funding. One of the reasons these rural projects are so popular is that the people living in these village clusters form committees to decide on local priorities and needs.

We urge direct funding of the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program for fiscal year 2002. This program supports such fine institutions in Lebanon as the American University of Beirut, Lebanese-American University and International College. We are also pleased that USAID-Lebanon will provide these educational institutions grants for scholarships.

And one final point, the task force supports the Department of State de-mining program for Lebanon. The United Nations estimates there are 130,000 land mines in Lebanon and 11 people have been killed and 71 wounded since the Israeli withdrawal. Lebanon just received seven mine-sniffing Belgian Malinois dogs from the United States. It is an issue of major concern and the U.S. will get valuable public exposure through a highly visible de-mining program.

Thank you very much.

[The information follows:]

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.395

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.396

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Cody. We appreciate

your testimony----

Mr. Cody. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe [continuing]. As well as the previous one, give us some insight on the issues in Lebanon. Thank you very much.

Mr. Cody. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. Bryan Ardouny from the American Armenian Assembly.

Mr. Ardouny. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. How are you?

Mr. Ardouny. Good seeing you.

Mr. Kolbe. Is that all set?

I am going to turn it over in about 15 seconds here.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

WITNESS

BRYAN ARDOUNY

Mr. Ardouny. Mr. Chairman, the Armenian Assembly of America is pleased to outline our perspective on the importance of U.S. assistance programs to the independent states, particularly Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Established in 1972, the Armenian Assembly is the largest Washington-based organization representing Armenian-Americans and those who share our goals. One of our purposes is to strengthen U.S. relationships with Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

I know the time is limited, as the sands run out, so I will highlight our recommendations.

First, the assembly commends this subcommittee's efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, maintaining Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, to providing funding for regional projects and confidence-building measures.

Regardless of the outcome of the peace talks in Key West, Florida, scheduled this April 3, the assembly urges the subcommittee to continue funding for confidence-building measures in the fiscal year 2002 Foreign Operations bill.

We commend U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's initiative in bringing the parties together in Florida. It is our hope that any solution that is reached takes into account facts on the ground.

A durable settlement will have to provide international security guarantees, horizontal relations between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and ensure that Nagorno-Karabakh is not an enclave.

Most importantly, the citizens of each of the three conflicting parties must approve the peace settlement. In order for peace to succeed, the citizens of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh must also realize a fairly immediate improvement in their lives.

Job creation, resettlement of refugees, rebuilding and rehabilitation must take place soon after the settlement. This

will mitigate difficult compromises accepted by all parties to the conflict.

We strongly urge this committee to continue its leadership role during this post-conflict period to provide the necessary resources to implement peace.

Second, the assembly recognizes the current budgetary constraints under which the subcommittee must operate. Therefore, we recommend that the subcommittee ensure that the I.S. account, as well as the South Caucasus generally, and Armenia specifically, receive the same percentage of funding in fiscal year 2002 as it did in fiscal year 2001.

Third, the assembly commends the subcommittee and Congress for maintaining section 907 of the Freedom Support Act. Given the ongoing sensitive peace negotiations, the assembly strongly opposes any efforts to weaken or repeal this provision of law. In its current form, Section 907 constitutes a focused, appropriate message to the government of Azerbaijan that the United States will not support efforts to marginalize via blockade entire populations of neighboring states.

Finally, the assembly commends the vision and leadership of this subcommittee in providing \$20 million in humanitarian assistance for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and urges the subcommittee to provide the remaining funding, approximately \$8.2 million, via bill language in the fiscal year 2002 Foreign Operations bill.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Armenian-American community, I would like to express our deep and sincere gratitude to Congress for its steadfast support of U.S. assistance to Armenia. Armenia views the United States as a strategic partner and friend who responded during times of desperation.

Given Armenia's central location, Christian heritage, entrepreneurial spirit and Western value system, the country's potential is great. With the support of the United States, Armenia will be able to accomplish its objectives: regional peace and stability, a successful transition to a free market economy and a flourishing democracy.

We thank you for your attention to these very important matters. We encourage you to visit the region and look forward to working with you.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.397

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.401

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.402

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.403

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.405

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.406

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.407

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Bryan. And you have my assurance that I will be visiting the region as soon as I can fit that into the schedule of all of the other things that we have to do. And you finished well within your time frame. Appreciate your being here.

Mr. Ardouny. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Aram Sarafian. Thank you very much for coming. American National Committee of Armenia.

Mr. Sarafian. It is the Armenian National----

Mr. Kolbe. It is the Armenian National Committee of America.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

ARMENIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

WITNESS

ARAM A. SARAFIAN

Mr. Sarafian. Good afternoon. I am Aram Sarafian. I am representing the Armenian National Committee of America, the ANCA, the nation's oldest and largest Armenian-American grassroots advocacy organization.

I would like to ask that my written testimony be submitted for the record.

Mr. Kolbe. Full statement will be placed in the record.

Mr. Sarafian. Thank you.

I am honored to testify again in front of this subcommittee. I am especially honored that my former congressman, yourself, Congressman Kolbe, is now the chairman. I used to live in Sierra Vista, Arizona, when I was assigned to Fort Huachuca. And it is my pleasure that you are the new chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. Kolbe. You need to come back soon.

Mr. Sarafian. Actually, I make it out there periodically for Reserve duty.

I would like to begin by stressing the importance of foreign aid funding in promoting U.S. interests and American values abroad. I witnessed firsthand how U.S. assistance promotes American values when I served as an Army intelligence officer in Croatian Bosnia. U.S. assistance was used to rebuild villages and towns that were devastated by war. American foreign assistance was used to establish and nurture ties among the Serbs, the Croats and Muslims in Bosnia.

U.S. foreign assistance serves a similar purpose in Nagorno-Karabakh. First and foremost, it helps the native inhabitants of the region overcome the ravages of a devastating six-year war.

Second, this aid is a critical confidence-building measure

that may help bring peace to this war-torn region and, eventually, hopefully, to foster inter-ethnic ties that once existed prior to Azerbaijan's aggression against the local Armenian populace. We would like to see those inter-ethnic ties rekindled.

The Armenian-American community thanks the subcommittee and Congress as a whole for your wisdom in providing direct aid to the previously neglected Nagorno-Karabakh population. We hope that you will maintain this important funding in fiscal year 2002.

The Armenian-American community is also concerned that the State Department has in the past ignored the will of this body and Congress as a whole by failing to deliver this much needed assistance in a timely manner. I hope that in fiscal year 2002, this body will make it clear that this aid must be delivered in a timely and efficient manner.

U.S. foreign assistance to Armenia is also important, especially because of the ongoing blockade of Armenia by both Turkey and Azerbaijan. These blockades, which have been in place for almost a decade, have crippled Armenia's economy. These blockades are occurring during the very difficult transition that Armenia is going through from a Soviet command economy to a Western-style free market economy.

The Armenian-American community deeply appreciates the assistance appropriated by Congress to promote economic and democratic reforms in Armenia during this difficult transition. We look forward to the day when these blockades will be lifted. Then we hope to work with Congress to end the need for foreign assistance to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

We have the opportunity to move Armenia from a nation facing oppression and genocide in 1915 to a vibrant, democratic, free-market country contributing to regional security and prosperity.

The Armenian-American community looks to our congressional leaders, especially this subcommittee, to maintain America's leadership in both Armenia and this critical corner of the world. We ask that this subcommittee maintain at least at fiscal year 2001 levels foreign aid funding for Armenia. We also ask that direct foreign aid funding for Nagorno-Karabakh also be maintained at fiscal year 2001 levels, at least that, as a minimum.

We also ask that the subcommittee, through more aggressive oversight, or through additional provisions in the foreign aid bill, ensure that the State Department uses the foreign aid directly allocated to Nagorno-Karabakh in a timely and efficient manner.

It is great that the aid was appropriated. But when it is not spent, it is not reaching its designated purpose. We hope to overcome that.

The Armenian-American community further requests that Congress and this subcommittee maintains Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, prohibiting direct assistance to the government of Azerbaijan. As you all are no doubt aware, Section 907 does not prohibit humanitarian and economic assistance to Azerbaijan; it just prohibits aid to the government. In fact, there is a lot of U.S. aid that goes to Azerbaijan through NGOs.

Section 907 was passed by Congress in response to Azerbaijan's crippling economic blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Weakening or eliminating Section 907 will not only signal to Azerbaijan the lack of concern over the blockade, it will affect and may irreparably damage the ongoing OSCE-Nagorno-Karabakh peace process.

I would like to thank the subcommittee for their work in maintaining Section 907 in the foreign aid funding to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and for this opportunity to speak before you today. And I am willing to answer any questions that you may have.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.408

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.409

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.410

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.411

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.412

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.413

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.414

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Sarafian. We really appreciate the work that you do to represent the Armenian people here in the United States.

Mr. Sarafian. Thank you.

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much.

And let me know when you get back to Fort Huachuca. We will get together there. Thank you.

Mr. Orhan Suleiman, Maryland American Turkish Association.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

MARYLAND AMERICAN TURKISH ASSOCIATION

WITNESS

ORHAN H. SULEIMAN

Mr. Suleiman. Thank you.

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity again to represent what is an extremely small constituency, Turkish-Americans. And within the small constituency, I represent an even smaller group. I am an American of Turkish-Cypriot heritage.

My task today is simple, to attempt to speak the truth. However, your task today is difficult, because even if you hear the truth, it will be overwhelmed by many times a well-orchestrated chorus of fallacy, misleading statements regarding Turkey.

This country cannot afford to be Balkanized by ethnic constituencies, be they Armenian, Greek or Turkish, just to

name a few. These ethnic lobbies constitute a serious threat to the U.S. using their sheer strength in numbers to lobby against a nation, which by any measure, has been a trustworthy, steadfast and honorable ally to us, the Republic of Turkey.

The Republic of Turkey, a secular, democratic nation, has achieved great success when compared to many upper geographic measures. Unlike the U.S., she is surrounded by hostile nations. She has maintained the separation of religion and government, at a price; has been a solid member of NATO; and continues to aspire to join the European Union, fulfilling the vision of its first president, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, to Westernize.

For these, she has paid dearly. Economically, the Iraqi embargo has cost Turkey billions of dollars. Politically, she was the first Islamic nation to recognize Israel and has always been looked on suspiciously by her sister Islamic nations. And militarily, she has contributed soldiers from Korea to peacekeeping troops in the Balkans. You really do not find allies like Turkey.

What I want to make an important point today about, though, is Cyprus. Cyprus belonged to the Ottoman Turks for several centuries until the late 1800s when it was leased to the British. This ironically saved the Turks on Cyprus, because when the Ottoman Empire crumbled, Turkish communities on other islands, like Crete, were systematically massacred. I probably owe my existence to the British.

Anyway, in the mid 1850s, as many former British colonies became independent, Cyprus was also granted independence. However, and this was very novel, its president will always be Greek, its vice president will always be Turkish. And military troops from both Turkey and Greece were to be stationed on the island to guarantee the safety of its respective communities.

With these prophetically visionary safeguards, the Republic of Cyprus was launched in 1960. It only took three short years for the Greek-Cypriot community on the island to declare these constitutional safeguards against its Turkish-Cypriot partner unconstitutional.

In 1963, during Christmas, the first of a series of attacks on the Turkish community ensued. My relatives from the village of Lefkara, along with Turks from many other villages, fled. And this was really ethnic cleansing well before the word was coined in Yugoslavia.

From 1963 until 1974, the cleansing continued, Turkey protested, the United Nations observed, and Turks continued to be murdered. In 1967, my 75-year-old grandmother, Meyrem Suleyman, was killed when the Greeks attacked her refugee village, suspecting that there were Turkish military troops there.

This systematic cleansing continued until 1974 when President Makarios was ousted by a coup engineered from mainland Greece. And it was then that Turkey intervened militarily.

Unfortunately, today Turkey is portrayed as invading an innocent little island. Quite to the contrary, Turkey's constitutionally justified intervention was correct and has essentially solved the problem to this day.

As you know, such peacekeeping operations are necessary

when all else fails. And this one has been a phenomenal success. Although the Turkish-Cypriot community has tried to work out a political solution, it has been the Greeks, encouraged by their Christian ties and their ethnic lobby which have been uncompromising and negligent of their responsibility for creating the problem in the first place.

After years of stalemated talks, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was proclaimed in 1984. Yet, for a nation that has done nothing wrong, for a nation who has simply striven to protect the health and welfare of its citizens, it continues to go unrecognized by the world community.

Against this behavior, southern Cyprus, which is Greek, has armed itself to the teeth with all sorts of armaments. Turkey's role in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is simply defensive.

One of the possible solutions to this problem is to let the Turks and Greeks work out their differences themselves. Outside interference, despite the good intentions, have had an adverse effect here. Aid to Cyprus, with most of it going to the wealthy Greek south, is an aberration of politics. This aggravates the situation.

The earthquake diplomacy when Turkey and then Greece provided assistance to each other was very, very encouraging. I feel that a more positive approach by the U.S., a more hands-off approach, but an equitable and balanced approach for the two sovereign peoples of Cyprus will produce much more useful outcomes.

Democratic Turkey will eventually emerge a regional economic power. And it desperately wants to be Western, fighting some very serious cultural and religious pressures. We should never lose sight of this vision and the United States should do everything it can to foster it by being fair and equitable in its foreign policy.

[The information follows:]

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.416

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.417

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much for the very good statement, Mr. Suleiman. Thank you.

Mrs. Lowey. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kolbe. The Assembly of Turkish American Associations
Pierre Oberling. Mr. Oberling.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

WITNESS

PIERRE OBERLING

Mr. Oberling. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you in order to present testimony on behalf of the

Assembly of Turkish American Associations.

Since 1963, the Greek Cypriots, with the backing of Greek troops, have carried out a series of devastating ethnic cleansing campaigns against the Turkish Cypriot community. These started in December 1963.

The Turkish Cypriot quarter of Nicosia, the Cypriot capital, was besieged and heavily bombarded. One hundred and three Turkish Cypriot villages were put to the torch, and 25,000 Turkish Cypriots were made homeless.

U.S. Secretary of State George W. Ball, who visited Cyprus in February 1964, accused Archbishop Makarios, the Greek-Cypriot president, of turning Cyprus into his private abattoir and concluded that the Greek Cypriots just want to be left alone to kill Turkish Cypriots.

In 1964, all remaining Turkish Cypriots were herded into tiny enclaves covering in their entirety only 3 percent of the land surface of the island. These enclaves were then surrounded by fortifications and barbed-wire fences. And the Turkish Cypriots were deprived of all their rights except the right to apply for a permanent exit visa.

In 1967, several of the Turkish-Cypriot enclaves were attacked. On November 14 and 15 alone, more than 30 Turkish Cypriots were killed, including the three sons of an elderly couple and an 80-year-old man, who was burned alive by being wrapped in a gasoline soaked blanket and set on fire.

In 1974, the Greek military dictator, General Dimitrios Ioannides, overthrew Makarios and replaced him with a well-known political assassin by the name of Nikos Sampson, in the hope that the more ruthless Sampson would liquidate the Turkish Cypriot minority more expeditiously than had his predecessor.

As massacre followed massacre, the Turkish government, after having beseeched in vain the British and U.S. governments to intervene, decided to abide by its obligations according to the Treaty of Guarantee, which Great Britain, Greece and Turkey had signed in 1960.

The Turkish intervention caused the collapse of the hated military dictator in Greece and the odious Sampson regime in Cyprus. It prevented the occupation of Cyprus by Greece and ushered in a period of peace on the island which continues to this day. Finally, it provided a refuge in northern Cyprus for the Turkish-Cypriot survivors of more than 10 years of terror and oppression.

As they fled into the Turkish-protected zone, The Turkish-Cypriots, for the first time in many years, were free from fear. But Greek-Cypriot aggression did not end in 1974. A new ethnic cleansing campaign was launched, but in the form of a trade embargo upon the Turkish-Cypriot community, the aim of which was the strangulation of the Turkish-Cypriot economy. This embargo is still going on.

What is mystifying to the Turkish-Cypriots, as well as to all those who have witnessed their suffering through the years, is that the U.S. Government supports this embargo. The only reason the Turkish-Cypriots fled to northern Cyprus was because they wanted to live in peace. Why should we punish them for it? During the past few years, we have felt the pain of the Bosnians and the Kosovars. Are the Turkish-Cypriots in any way less worthy of our sympathy?

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations strongly urges the subcommittee not to recommend further economic assistance to the Greek-Cypriot state unless the embargo is lifted.

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations also urges the subcommittee to make sure that, should humanitarian aid be distributed to both the Greek-Cypriot and the Turkish-Cypriot communities, it be distributed on the basis of need rather than on the basis of the comparative size of the two communities.

Thank you.

[The information follows:]

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.418

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.419

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.420

[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] T5117A.421

Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Oberling. We appreciate your testimony.

Andrew Manatos, the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, good afternoon. Please go ahead.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

NATIONAL COORDINATED EFFORT OF HELLENES

WITNESS

ANDREW E. MANATOS, PRESIDENT, CEH

Mr. Manatos. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. And if I might ask if my testimony----

Mr. Kolbe. Your full statement will be placed in the record.

Mr. Manatos. Thank you very much.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, the United Hellenic American Congress, the Pancyprrian Association of America, and the International Coordination Committee on Justice for Cyprus.

Mr. Chairman, we really have before your committee, a very small number of items. Number one on our list always is the \$15 million that is normally appropriated for Cyprus. And this has been appropriated now for, I assume, over 20 years, if not, very close to that. It is an important signal that is sent to the people of Cyprus, both the Greek-Cypriots and the Turkish-Cypriots, and it is important we hope that it will be maintained again this year.

The other appropriations matter is IMET. Last year, the numbers went up for training for Turkey and Greece, and Greece has been increased to \$1 million a year for 2001 and 2002, and Turkey to \$2.5 million. And we would hope that that full \$1 million and even more will be appropriated. Greece has not had much money appropriated in the past for military training and it is a very valuable thing to relations between the two

countries.

And if I might, Mr. Chairman, now just address briefly three issues that are very important to the Greek-American community. And they are all related.

The first issue is Cyprus. And as you know, the occupation of Cyprus has now been opposed by the U.S. and the UN for 27 years this summer. And there are opportunities to be had. Turkey very much wants to become part of the EU, and Turkey cannot become part of EU unless the Cyprus problem is solved. A key communaute of the EU requires certain standards to be met, the Helsinki Final Act requires human rights and religious rights to be recognized. And so it is in everyone's best interest, certainly Turkey's, to get the Cyprus issue behind them.

In that regard, that brings us to the second issue of major concern to the community, and that is the border line between Greece and Turkey. And it is as simple as adhering to international standards of recognizing international law and international boundaries. That is really all our community is concerned about with respect to this second issue. There was no dispute whatsoever between Greece and Turkey on these boundaries for decades, and it has just been within recent years that this has been created and is a very serious problem that nearly led to war just a very few years ago.

And the third issue, Mr. Chairman, involves the patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church, which is located in Istanbul, Turkey. It is not at all an accurate parallel, but some people see our patriarchate like the Vatican is for the Catholic Church. There are differences. But it is the head. He is the first among equals, the Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul, among all the Orthodox around the world: Russian Orthodox, all sorts of Orthodox. It is a very important position.

Our problem is this. There is one very acute problem. There was a bomb planted in the patriarchate that was diffused just a very short period of time before it was exploded that would have killed the Ecumenical Patriarch and would have destroyed most of the patriarchate. And that is one of three bombs; two others did go off, priests were taken to hospital, property was damaged. That is the acute problem.

The less acute problem, but just as important, is that this patriarchate, which was established in 38 A.D. and has been going on continually since that time, will be extinguished probably in our lifetimes. And the reason for this is the law requires that for a patriarch to be appointed, he must be a Turkish citizen. Well, there used to be many Orthodox Christians in Turkey who have been pushed out. But now, the few that are there, in order to qualify to be a patriarch, you must be educated, you must go into the church hierarchy. And Turkey, in recent years, closed down the seminary. So Halki is now closed, training of clergy will cease for Orthodox in Turkey. And it will.

The current patriarch is not an old man. He is in his early 60s. A brilliant man, speaks eight languages. But probably within our lifetime, unless something is done, this will also end.

But here again, Turkey's accession to the EU is key,

because I do not believe they will be able to maintain either their policy on Cyprus, or their treatment of the patriarchate, or their dispute in challenging legitimate boundaries with Greece and accede to the EU. So, we are in an interesting position, Mr. Chairman, those three issues are very important to us, and we think that there is a real opportunity for movement.

If I might just make one final point, the Greek-American community looks at these issues as matters of principle. And I would point out that when Greece had a military junta, who in Congress was the one moving to cut off aid to Greece? At the time Congressman Paul Sarbanes and Congressman John Brademas, which articulates the position of our community. And that is we are not against any people, we are against systems that are not of benefit to anyone.

And so we would hope, Mr. Chairman, that you do what you could in the appropriations process to move these issues forward.

[The information follows:]

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much for this very good statement. Appreciate it.

Nick Larigakis?

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE, INC.

WITNESS

NICK LARIGAKIS

Mr. Larigakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chimicles sends his apologies. He is litigating a major case in Philadelphia and his wife is very full and apparently due in just a couple of days. So he hesitates to leave the area.

It is a pleasure, Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, to appear before the subcommittee today on behalf of Mr. Chimicles and on behalf of the organizations listed

which represent the leading Greek-American membership-based organizations regarding the administration's foreign aid proposals.

Sir, I respectfully submit for the full record, Mr. Chimitles' comprehensive statement. You have a copy.

The U.S. has long had a vital, if not critical, interest in Southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. To the north of Greece are the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Russia. To the east Cyprus and the Middle East. And to the south are North Africa and the Suez Canal. Since time immemorial the region has been an intersection of civilizations and a center for trade. Today, significant communication links for commerce and energy sources pass through the region. The region's geography also gives the dubious distinction of being at the geopolitical center of many of our world's most severe crises.

Thus, the U.S. must remain actively engaged to provide good leadership and work with its close allies if we wish to maintain stability, promote democracy and further our commercial interests.

To further our interests, the U.S. has an important stake in fostering good relations between the two NATO allies, Greece and Turkey, and in achieving a just and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem.

We support, Mr. Chairman, the amount of \$15 million in humanitarian aid for Cyprus. This aid is an important symbol of U.S. support for Cyprus and of the U.S. commitment to achieving a comprehensive solution. We further believe that the administration should follow the lead set by this Congress a few years ago and publicly call for the immediate demilitarization of Cyprus.

In 2000, the political, security and economic landscape in Southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean underwent significant changes. The emergence of a democratic government in Serbia transformed the prospects for progress in the Balkans. Further, at its December 8 to 10, 2000 Nice Council, the European Union took the necessary practical steps to underpin the process of enlargement. The active involvement of the EU had improved the prospects for enhanced regional cooperation and development. U.S. interests stand to benefit from these developments.

Unfortunately, we also view with great concern the deteriorating situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, otherwise known as FYROM. The euphoria that followed Yugoslav dictator Slobodan Milosevic's ouster last year has given way to anxiety as another country teeters on slippery slope toward ethnic strife.

U.S. diplomatic leadership will be critical to stabilizing the situation in FYROM. But we are also very fortunate to have an ally such as Greece in the region. A bulwark of democracy, Greece has been critical to the stability and reconstruction of the Balkans. The U.S. will be best served by working closely with its pivotal ally now as we search for a solution to the problems facing FYROM.

The policy themes advocated by the American Hellenic Institute since it was founded in 1974 and reiterated in successive Greek-American policy statements, including our recently released 2001 edition, address the concerns of the Greek-American community and express policy objectives for

furthering regional interests. This testimony is intended as a road map for this committee and the Congress as it considers its budgetary priorities for fiscal year 2002.

The statements and opinions herein are based solely in what we believe are invested interests of the United States. These main policy objectives are: U.S. interests are best served by applying the rule of law in international affairs; U.S. foreign policy should foster and embody U.S. values, including human rights; the principal requirement of the U.S. is to expand and deepen its relationship with Greece; the U.S. should remain actively engaged in a search for a settlement to the Cyprus problem; the format of the current proximity talks should be expanded and intensified in the interest of a settlement based on the UN resolutions, democratic principles and EU legal principles along with common practices; in the interest of regional stability and dispute resolution, the U.S. should promote Turkey's emergence as a fully democratic state, able to complete EU accession process and to participate fully in the economic opportunities presented by the improved regional climate.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, a stable, democratic Turkey is what we need to further and advance U.S. policy in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the committee for lending its valuable time to hear this testimony on behalf of the key membership organizations in the Greek-American community. Or testimony is a balanced, objective overview of the situation in this vital region. The guidelines we have proposed are strictly based on our national interests. We hope this committee will carefully consider our comments as it deliberates and before any appropriations in the coming fiscal year.

I thank you very much for the opportunity. And I know it has been a long day for you, so if you are available, we are having a congressional salute to Greek Independence Day in the Rayburn building foyer from 6 to 8, you can come and enjoy and relax a little bit. I thank you very much.

[The information follows:]

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much, Mr. Larigakis, for coming. We appreciate very much your patience today. And you are right, we are at the end of a very long day. The last person to testify is Mr. Maqbool Aliani.

And Mr. Aliani, even though you are the last person does not mean you have unlimited time, because we have 10 minutes remaining on this vote, so we have to finish. Thank you very much for coming. Please proceed.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

THE WORLD SINDHI INSTITUTE

WITNESS

MAQBOOL ALIANI

Mr. Aliani. Honorable Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the committee, I am appearing on behalf of the World Sindhi Institute and I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The WSI is a Washington, D.C.-based democracy and human rights advocacy and watch group with focus on Pakistan in general and Sindh in particular. The purpose of my testimony is to explain how it is in the U.S. national interest not to support the Pakistan regime. I am also here to explain how Pakistani military and Islamic fundamentalism are two faces of the same coin.

First and foremost, Sindh is the southeastern province of Pakistan. It is a well-known fact that Sindh is a historical country that has remained the Sindhi nation-state from time immemorial. Sindh became a part of Pakistan 53 years ago on the basis of the Lahore Resolution of 1940. The Pakistani government, by violating each and every provision of this solemn covenant, has relegated Sindh's status to that of a colony.

The primary geopolitical singularity is the 1958 military takeover of Pakistan. This usurpation is the single source of all the geopolitical tension and problems in the region endangering the world today. Pakistan was founded on the basis of the Lahore Resolution of 1940 that promised a loose confederation of the constituent units. This resolution that guaranteed autonomy and freedom was hijacked by Pakistan's

corrupt and predominantly Punjabi military. The ethnic Punjabis constitute about 25 percent of the total population, but control both the military and bureaucracy of Pakistan, and call all the shots in matters of international and domestic policies excluding the rest of the peoples of Pakistan.

The history of Pakistan, thereafter, is a record of violations of that sacred covenant and this Punjabi oligarchy has imposed upon the people of Pakistan an unnatural and artificial structure, that of a highly centralized state based upon the rapacious internal colonization of non-Punjabi nationalities and ethnic groups. Senseless warmongering and brutal exploitation and discrimination of all non-Punjabi nationalities and religious minorities has created explosive internal conditions that can destroy Pakistan, as we have witnessed in 1971.

The other face of this Pakistani military and Punjabi colonialism is Islamic fundamentalism, or pan-Islamism, which it abets, supports and is closely allied to, and which constitutes the biggest threat to the region and to U.S. and the West. Islamic fundamentalism is Pakistan military's last card saved to use against the Western world when the chips are down. It is backed by nuclear blackmail and the implication that the technology can be passed on to other rogue states and extremist groups. Pakistan is known today for being in cahoots with the fundamentalist Taliban regime in Afghanistan, suspected terrorist links and an unending conflict with India.

I appeal to you not be misled by this regime's talks of eradicating corruption, and the talk of democracy and devolution of power. The corruption of the politicians is only the tip of the iceberg. The real corruption is the army itself, which is untouched and which consumes up to 80 percent of the GNP directly or indirectly.

The above problem definition points to one basic fact: that the core issue is the resolution of the national question in Pakistan, and the only solution is to let Sindhis, and other oppressed nations in Pakistan, exercise their right to self-determination. This will prepare a fertile ground for a meaningful dialogue between the nations of the South Asian region for a just and enduring peace, removal of the dark shadow of military adventurism, and economic co-operation to better the lot of the people in the region.

It is our sincere recommendation that any aid or support to Pakistan should be tied to the degree of genuine decentralization of political power to its provinces that this regime must implement.

Furthermore, the U.S. should insist on the depunjabization and deislamization of the Pakistan army so that the nuclear program is in safe hands under secular multi-ethnic control. Only a demilitarized and decentralized Pakistan can pave the way for the denuclearization of the region. Without support from a highly centralized state, the level of insurgency should come down in Kashmir and will undercut and eliminate support of the Taliban. This will completely halt the slide of the region into folds of fundamentalism and anti-West sentiments, and will ultimately bring peace and stability to South Asia.

Thank you.

[The information follows:]

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Mr. Kolbe. Thank you very much for your statement. And we appreciate your taking the time to come today and give the statement. We will be taking this under consideration.

Thank you. And to everybody that has been here, you have been very patient through this entire hearing. Thank you very much for your patience and your participation. It has been very useful and helpful for me.

The subcommittee will stand adjourned.

[Statements for the record follow:]

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